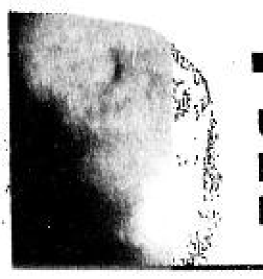

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'Jueteng' rears ugly head in Cebu

■ Metro / A16
Suspect in TV director's slay surrenders to NBI

Mike A accuses Erap lawyers of harassment

By Nelson F. Flores and Michael Lim Ubac

STILL around despite a Palace announcement that he was quitting the country, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to quash its subpoena for him to testify in the trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

MIKE/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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March, get wet, clubbed, Joker dares GMA critics

By TJ Burgonio

MAKIBAKA KAYO!

SEN. JOKER Arroyo yesterday challenged people calling for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo to move out of their air-conditioned of-

MARCH/ A4

Peso falls; stocks plunge

Traders blame SC freeze of e-VAT

By Doris C. Dumlao, Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SHARES plunged to six-month lows and the peso weakened yesterday after the Supreme Court froze a major tax initiative of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is fighting for political survival amid allegations she rigged the elections last year.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 4.2 percent to 1,815.67 in the steepest one-day fall since January 2001 at the height of People Power II, adding to the 7.5 percent loss in the past five sessions.

To prevent a potential free-fall of the peso, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas was reportedly forced to step in yesterday. The peso closed at 56.09, the lowest finish since Jan. 10, after hovering between an intra-day low of 56.10 and a high of 55.98 to the US dollar.

Businessman Raul T. Concepcion warned that the peso could breach the 60-to-the-dollar mark if the opposition succeeded in getting a permanent injunction from the Supreme Court to block the implementation of the 10-percent expanded value-added tax (e-VAT).

Major credit rating agencies said they were alarmed by the Supreme Court decision to freeze the e-VAT, which had been in effect for just 18 hours on Friday, but were not considering any credit rating changes for now.

"This is a major disappointment to have come through a very long legislative process and then have legislators undermine it through the court system," James McCormack, head of Asia sovereign ratings for Fitch, said of the court ruling.

Opponents of the tax petitioned the court to halt the process, arguing that it was unconsti-

PESO/ A6

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo beams as members of the Confederated Brotherhood of the Guardians International led by Nestorio Gualberto (right) and Leborio Jangao Jr. (left) express support for her administration in Malacañang. PHOTO COURTESY OF OPS

Gov't wants opposers to file bond for losses

By Armand N. Nocum and Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance yesterday asked the Supreme Court to immediately lift the temporary restraining order freezing the 10-percent expanded value-added tax (e-VAT) law, saying that losses from the nonimplementation of the law estimated at P130 million daily were "unrecoverable."

Acting on petitions by opponents of the law, the high court froze the e-VAT, which would raise the cost of electricity and fuel, airline and shipping fares and other previously exempt items, hours after its implementation on Friday.

The Supreme Court has scheduled the first hearing for July 26.

Officials of the DOF and the Office of the Solicitor General asked the high court to require the petitioners who questioned the constitutionality of the e-VAT law, the centerpiece of the government's economic reform policy, "to file a bond equivalent to P130 million per day until the final resolution of the case."

"In the event that this Honorable Court sustains the issuance of a TRO against RA 9337, respondents request that this court require petitioners to file the appropriate bond to cover the unre-

GOV'T/ A6

Ateneo Law School: Let GMA decide

By Alcuin Papa

THE ATENEO Law School yesterday said it was up to President Macapagal-Arroyo to do what was best for the country, even as the faculty of the University of the Philippines College of Law joined calls for her resignation.

"We do not demand that the President resign, but we do ask of her, as the duly proclaimed Chief Executive of our Republic, to determine what is best for the country, and that her decision be made with the best interest of the nation in mind," the Ateneo Law School said in a statement issued by Dean Cesar L. Villanueva.

"As our President, we must rely on Ms Arroyo to make the proper decision, and once having made it, to then follow what would be in accordance with the terms provided for in our Constitution," he said.

Villanueva said that if the President resigned, Filipinos should rally behind the succession of Vice President Noli de Castro to the vacated office. If Ms Arroyo decided not to resign, the people must accord her due respect and allow impeachment proceedings to follow their constitutional course and accept the verdict, he added.

Also yesterday, Bienvenido F. Nebres, Jesuit president in the

ATENEO/ A6

'Noli scare' used to keep Gloria in power, says opposition solon

By Leila B. Salaverria and Norman Bordadora

FROM the way the opposition is talking, Vice President Noli de Castro has emerged as a powerful Malacañang weapon to keep President Macapagal-Arroyo in power.

But it may not be in terms "Kabayan" would find flattering.

House Minority Leader Rep. Francis Escudero yesterday said the Arroyo administration was scaring people into keeping her in power by raising the possibility that they would be saddled with De Castro if she resigned from the presidency.

Escudero also said calls for the opposition to reveal its preferred successor should the President resign was another tactic the Palace was using to keep Ms Arroyo afloat.

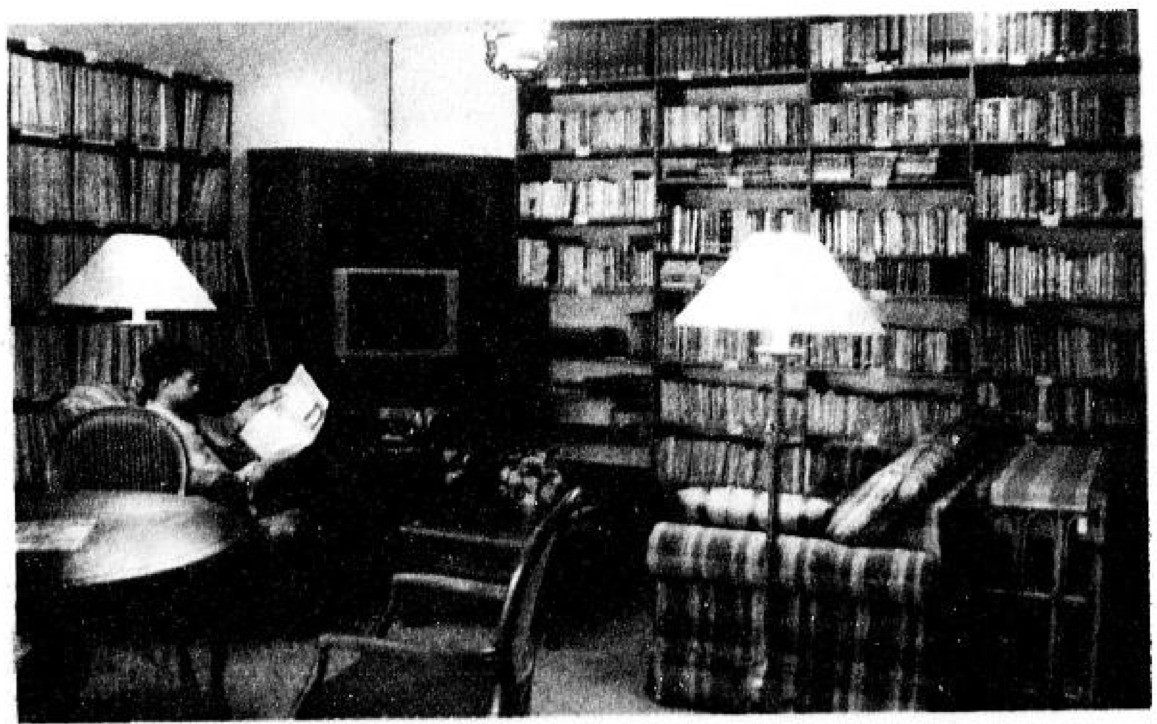
"The argument of those in the administration is to frighten the people by asking, 'If Gloria goes, who will replace her. Noli? Do they want him? A junta? That should scare you.'"

Before entering politics and becoming a senator in his first crack, De Castro was an immensely popular broadcaster and news anchor at the ABS-CBN television network. Despite his mass appeal, many businessmen have questioned his credentials as a political leader and an economist.

Speaking at the Kapihan sa Manila forum, Escudero challenged Ms Arroyo's allies to give an

NOLI/ A4

NO SHOOTING ALLOWED
Policemen arrest an unidentified youth who was filming the premises of the US Embassy during a "lightning protest" on the occasion of Filipino-American Friendship Day. REM ZAMORA



SOME of the book collection of the defunct Camp John Hay library are kept at the marketing office of Camp John Hay Development Corp. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

PERFECT LEARNING CLIMATE

Cozy John Hay library recalled

By TJ Burgonio

BAGUIO CITY—In bygone days when Camp John Hay was considered the "Baguio experience" giving Filipinos a foretaste of American living, a trip to the library was the ultimate experience for the youngsters.

The former library, perched on a mountainside in the sprawling, pine tree-dotted rest and recreation facility for US military personnel, was more than a bibliophile's paradise.

"There were a lot of friendships forged [with the American kids] … I forget their names now. Back then we'd discuss and comment on [books we'd read like] what's the best Nancy Drew. [Or] if Nancy Drew and one of the Hardy Boys were a couple," said lawyer Ma. Georgina A. Alvarez, recalling her first forays into the library inside Camp John Hay.

Its steel shelves were not only stacked with collections of children's literature, fiction, nonfiction, it had biographies, books on American history, philosophy, theater and music.

Books aside, the library's shelves held other gems—a huge collection of long-playing albums—from rock to jazz to country and western to classical music, which drew its own crowd of music lovers.

While the camp mainly catered to American military personnel and their children, the library was open to its Filipino civilian employees and their dependents, as well as to outsiders who were willing to pay the annual membership fee. Borrower's cards were issued for the books and LPs.

Most of the time, Filipinos outnumbered American patrons and their children, according to Chona B. Marasigan, 50, who served as library aide and eventually as chief librarian from 1980 to 1991.

The library held story-telling sessions every Saturday and puppet shows every fourth Saturday of the month as well as a bevy of

COZY/ A4

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/07/05/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Release final tally, Namfrel urged

By Leila B. Salaverria, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Jerome Aning

THE INFORMATION technology expert whose study claimed President Macapagal-Arroyo could not have won by more than one million votes yesterday appealed to the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) to release the final breakdown of votes per precinct so that the "actual winner" of the 2004 elections could be known.

Roberto Verzola said with the breakdown in their hands, he and other experts would be able to approximate the real results of last year's hotly contested presidential race.

"If Namfrel releases this breakdown, any analyst can make a very good election returns-based estimate of the true results of the 2004 presidential elections, independent of the certificate of canvass-based Congress canvass," Verzola said.

Verzola had used Namfrel's unofficial tally in his study which said that the presidential race had been a very close contest in which President Arroyo could have won by only 156,000 votes, or lost to her closest rival, Fernando Poe Jr., by 84,000 votes.

He said Namfrel's refusal to release the breakdown by precincts had provided him with no option other than to base his study on the first 17 days instead of the total 26 days Namfrel spent in the tally, thus subjecting the study to a larger-than-usual averaging error.

Verzola had said Namfrel's tally was closer to the truth, despite his finding that the organization was guilty of trending when it completed the counting of votes in Ms Arroyo's bailiwicks and failed to finish the counting in Poe's strongholds.

Verzola said yesterday in releasing the breakdown, Namfrel could clear itself of suspicion of wrongdoing.

"Thousands of Namfrel volunteers risked their lives, and yet their names are being dragged into cheating. (Namfrel leaders) owe it to the Namfrel volunteers to release the data and redeem the name of Namfrel," he told reporters.

Namfrel itself yesterday scotched rumors that mass desertions had hit its ranks following the playing of the so-called "Hello Garci" tape which hinted that the election watchdog may have taken part in alleged cheating in the elections.

Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion told the INQUIRER the organization's president, banker Edward Go, had not resigned, contrary to rumors that he had bolted Namfrel due to questions on the group's integrity.

The INQUIRER could not reach Go for comment.

"He (Go) had wanted to resign as early as eight months ago but I told him to stay on because we have to fix our finances for our next election in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao," Concepcion said.

Concepcion said that Namfrel was not bothered by insinuations it was involved in massive cheating in last year's elections.

Concepcion declared: "We stand on record that nothing was done in last year's elections. Our integrity is untainted."

He stressed that Namfrel had not engaged in "trending" by influencing the release of the presidential tally last year to show the President getting a sizable lead over Poe.

"We abided by our rule of first in, first out in releasing the results," Concepcion said.

Concepcion said a terminal report of Namfrel, which covered 87 percent of the votes and was duly audited by independent bodies, showed that the President had a lead of 720,000 votes.

Also yesterday, Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. rejected a call by the counsel of Poe that he resign "for being part of the conspiracy to cheat" in the elections.

In calling for Abalos to resign, lawyer Sixto Brillantes also said the conduct of the snap presidential elections being proposed by the opposition would be more credible if Abalos were not around as Comelec chief.

"I can't take unsolicited advice. I don't think I committed anything wrong," Abalos said.

He accused Brillantes of only trying to get media mileage at his expense and warned that the lawyer's actions would only further damage Comelec's credibility.

Military keeping eye on personnel

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY is monitoring its personnel in case some join mounting calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign, a spokesperson said yesterday.

Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Efren Abu ordered the monitoring yesterday even as he cleared an Army colonel linked to a supposed anti-government plot.

Col. Gregorio Catapang, who is with the 1st Scout Ranger Regiment in the Northern Luzon Command, appeared before Abu to clear his name.

"The Isafp (Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces) and our counterintelligence units continue to monitor our troops in case some would go astray or entertain destabilization ideas," Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, AFP public information chief, said yesterday.

So far, he said, there were no efforts to recruit officers and soldiers to join the campaign to bring down the Arroyo administration.

"What we see right now are the statements of retired generals (calling on the President to resign). But as for actual recruitment on the ground, we haven't monitored anything," Pascual said.

De Castro's man?

A news report on Monday said Catapang, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class '81, was suspected of campaigning for Vice President Noli de Castro to succeed the President.

The news report quoted an unnamed military official who said Catapang and Maj. Jason Aquino (PMA Class '91) had been going around telling officials to be ready for De Castro's presidency.

The two allegedly distributed leaflets calling for an "extra-constitutional" change in leadership.

"I vehemently deny any such involvement," Catapang said as he faced the media at Camp Aguinaldo after his meeting with Abu yesterday.

He denied personally knowing De Castro or having served under him. Catapang was alleged to have been a member of the Vice President's security team.

"I deny having any alliance, unholy or otherwise, with either the politicians from the opposition or the ruling administration bloc, including the current Vice President," Catapang said.

Bibit's claim

A former officer, Col. Billy Bibit (ret.), claimed a group of young officers was planning to replace Ms Arroyo with a civilian-led caretaker government that would restore political and economic order.

But Pascual likewise downplayed the claim, saying the military "will remain apolitical and never allow any group or personality to use the (armed forces) to advance any political and personal interest."

Bibit said the officers, mostly captains and majors, believed the President had the lost moral authority to lead after she was tainted by accusations of cheating in the May 2004 election.

Pascual denied Bibit's claim, saying he may have been griping over his recent removal from the Bureau of Customs because of insufficient credentials.

On another front, former AFP chief of staff Dionisio Santiago said President Arroyo's advisers should give her nothing less than an "honest to goodness" assessment of the situation on the ground.

"My advise is that if someone is being asked by the President for information, they should give her the right information. If they had already given her the right information, the truthful situation, then well and good," said Santiago, now executive director of the Dangerous Drugs Board.

Santiago did not say which government advisers he was referring to. But he said it was the job of the military and the police not to withhold information from the President and for counterintelligence agents to verify that information. *With Luige A. del Puerto; AP*

KEEPING BUSY
Vice President Noli de Castro, concurrent Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair, talks to informal settlers and Bulacan government officials at the resettlement site in Barangay Santol, Balagtas. De Castro has refused to be drawn into the controversies hounding President Macapagal-Arroyo.

DOJ: Protesters being bused in

By Christine O. Avendaño

ANTI-ARROYO forces were allegedly bringing in people to Metro Manila from the provinces as part of their mobilization for protest rallies against the President, including her July 25 State of the Nation Address to Congress.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday his office had received reports that in the past several days, people in small groups of 10s and 20s were coming to Metro Manila from Nueva Ecija and the Bicol region.

He cited one report which said the financiers of the mobilization included a mayor and a former congressman who were both from Nueva Ecija.

Apparently, these groups of people are being used in protest rallies here, he said.

Gonzalez noted that lightning rallies were staged at key government offices yesterday, particularly at the Department of Land Reform and the National Labor Relations Commission.

It was possible these groups will be mobilized to protest the President's SONA, Gonzalez said. "Because what situation would attract national attention but the President's SONA?" he said.

Gonzalez said the authorities were monitoring these groups.

Malacañang, meanwhile, appeared unfazed by the call of members of the academe and the professions for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down amid accusations she ordered the rigging of the May 2004 election.

"We don't think this is the sentiment of the majority of our people," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters yesterday.

Bunye said the Palace had information these groups "do not really represent the whole organization and we would like to reiterate that they do not reflect the majority of the population."

Among those calling for Ms Arroyo to resign were the University of the Philippines College of Law, De La Salle University and its affiliated schools, the Jose W. Diokno Foundation and the Kapatiran Party.

Asked if the emergence of these groups was nevertheless a cause for concern for the government, Bunye replied: "You cannot prevent small groups or small sectors from expressing their views which are contrary to administration views.

"But it's really a matter of finding out who represents the greater majority and we're saying that as of now the greater majority of the people will still not support an ouster move," he said.

Bishops appear divided

ARE THE BISHOPS divided over the crisis hounding President Macapagal-Arroyo?

Bishop Deogracias Iniguez of Caloocan City and Antonio Tobias of Novaliches City have called on the President to step down, saying she had lost her "moral and legal authority" to govern.

But on the same day that their group, the Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya (KME), held a press conference on Friday to announce their position, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales issued a pastoral letter that appeared to contradict their call.

Rosales, conspicuously quiet for weeks, called on the public to shun any violent solution to the crisis while reminding the President that "forgiveness does not eliminate the need for justice nor should it block the search for truth."

"Genuine forgiveness demands more than an apology, and those who seek forgiveness should be ready to be called for accountability," he said in the letter read at Masses in Metro Manila on Sunday.

As head of the powerful See of Manila, Rosales is the spokesperson for the five other bishops heading suffragan dioceses in Metro Manila on pastoral issues, according to Fr. Anton Pascual, head of the Network of Social Action Centers.

"When he speaks, the other bishops will toe the line," Pascual told the INQUIRER in an interview Sunday evening.

Bishop Socrates Villegas, a protégé of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, is not sold on the idea of ending the political crisis through extrajudicial means.

In a statement written in Filipino, the Balanga, Bataan, prelate reminded his flock that it's "our duty to respect the Constitution."

"I appeal to you not to get involved in any conflict or confusion," he said. "Let us banish violence in words or deeds." *Christian V. Esguerra*

General Santos City – a promise unfulfilled

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—It has the southern Philippines' biggest airport, its best roads and some of the world's top-grade tuna, but the shadow of deadly terrorist bombings in recent years scares investors away from the port of General Santos.

The spate of attacks has been an impediment to the city realizing its huge potential as a growth area and Southeast Asian regional trading center which the government envisioned in the 1980s.

This largely Christian city of 420,000 sits on the southern coast of the large island of Mindanao, which has been blighted by decades-old Muslim separatist rebellions that have claimed some 120,000 lives.

A bomb went off outside a local shopping mall on Feb. 14, coinciding with attacks in Manila and Davao, and left five people dead and 10 injured in the city. The bombings were blamed on the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group.

Residents complain that attacks by extremists in other Philippine cities are soon shrugged off but many people outside the region still associate General Santos with terrorism.

Isolated cases

"It's the bad perception of General Santos in particular," and Mindanao in general, remarks Neil Cachuela, head regional officer of Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM), a US-supported program to develop the strife-torn southern Philippines.

The bombings are "isolated cases" and the city swiftly returns to normal soon after these incidents, Cachuela says.

This sprawling 53,606-hectare city, located 1,500 km south of Manila, is a largely peaceful if somewhat sleepy place.

The most active parts of the city are the ports where thousands of tuna and other deep sea fish are unloaded from fishing boats each day.

At dockside, sun-darkened men haul the tuna fish, almost as large as they are, on their backs from a flotilla of small, wooden boats. Traders meet them at the port, where they plunge metal rods into the tuna to check the quality of the meat.

High-quality tuna is packed in ice and flown abroad to be turned into sashimi. Lower quality meat is sold in local markets or transported to canneries.

About 80 percent of the tuna output is exported in one form or another. About $170.6 million (P9.383 billion) worth of tuna was exported in 2003, city records show.

This has earned General Santos the title of "tuna capital" of the Philippines but the city is also a transshipment point for livestock, pineapples, papaya and other agricultural products from other parts of Mindanao to the rest of the country and abroad.

The national government saw a grand future for General Santos due to its strategic location near Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.

In the late 1980s, General Santos was expected to become a linchpin of the East Asean Growth Area (EAGA), a plan to integrate the economies of Mindanao with the nearby countries of Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia, fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Airport, roads built

With financial assistance from the United States, a sprawling airport and 178 km of good roads were built. A fiber-optic network was installed and an airline started regular flights across the Celebes Sea to Manado in Indonesia's Sulawesi island.

But the 1997 Asian financial crisis soon hobbled the EAGA ambitions and the flood of expected foreign investment never materialized. The Manado flights stopped several years ago for lack of passengers.

Instead of business deals, news coverage of General Santos focused on terror incidents like the bombing of a supermarket in April 2002 which left 15 dead and an explosion in a market last December that killed 14.

Regional police intelligence officer Supt. Robert Kiunisula says terrorists may be targeting General Santos for greater publicity.

"If something explodes here, it gets a lot of news compared to small cities" because of General Santos' progressive image, he says.

He concedes that there are many armed groups in the hills around General Santos including communist insurgents, Muslim separatists, kidnap-for-ransom gangs and alleged local allies of foreign militant groups such as al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah.

But he says government forces, with the cooperation of the local populace, have secured the city and arrested several suspects in most of the bombings.

The top military official in General Santos, Col. Medardo Geslani, says intelligence forces are monitoring the activities of the armed groups outside the city.

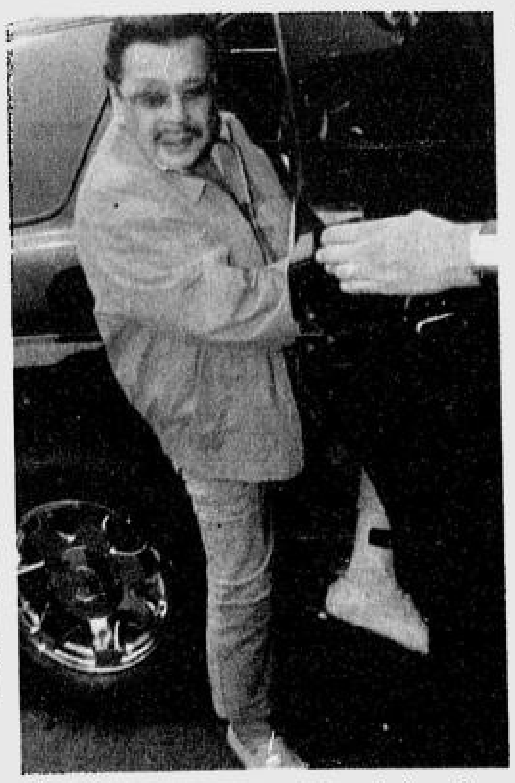
Research

Willy Guerra, a city government economist, says that "there was a lot of research done by foreign companies from South Korea, Singapore, (and) Europe" on potential investment in the city.

But he is still waiting for confirmation of actual investments.

To entice them, the city government is offering a special package that includes the speedier processing of permits and additional incentives on top of those already offered by the national government, he says. *AFP*

FIL-AM BOY GENIUS
President Macapagal-Arroyo receives a framed California State University T-shirt from Joriz de Guzman, a Filipino American genius, who called on her Monday at Malacañang's Music Room. The 15-year-old whiz is here on vacation after graduating from the California State University of San Bernardino (CSUSB) where he was the youngest of the 3,400 students who received their diplomas. REY BANIQUET/OPS



OUSTED president Joseph Estrada boards vehicle in Tanay, Rizal for a checkup at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center in San Juan. JOAN BONDOC

Batangas gov's firm corners P350-M computer project

By Tony Bergonia

A MULTI-MILLION peso computerization project of the Batangas provincial government was won by a five-month old company which, according to documents, appeared to belong to the province's governor Armand Sanchez.

Sanchez was also named one of the biggest jueteng lords in the country during a Senate investigation.

Documents showed that Automatic Data Processing Technologies Inc. (ADPT) was incorporated by several persons, including a niece of Sanchez and a ranking official in Malacañang, on Jan. 10, 2005, with a paid-up capital of P312,000.

In a phone interview, however, Sanchez denied that he was the real owner of ADPT.

"What is ADPT? I don't know that. Is my name on its records? It's not there," said the governor. "If my name is not there, I'm not part of it."

Sanchez first implemented a computerization project when he was mayor of the town of Sto. Tomas and brought the idea with him when he was elected governor in the 2004 elections.

The project involved the computerization of the assessment and collection of real estate property taxes in the 31 municipalities of the provincial government.

According to a case filed with the Ombudsman, the ADPT was incorporated by: Raymundo T. Roquero, with address at Barangay 2, Maharlika Highway, Sto. Tomas, Batangas; Geraldine F. Enriquez, 1231 Abreu St., San Miguel, Manila; Marcelino A. Tan Gania, Gen. Capinpin St., San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna; Jaime T. Vergara, 64 Nene St., Tapia Subdivision, Tanauan City; and Ronald de Vega, Blk 1, Lot 4 and 5 Rosario Silangan St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City.

Roquero is currently undersecretary for political coalitions and an associate of Sanchez while Enriquez is a niece of Sanchez. Vergara, according to a source, is known in Batangas as Sanchez's accountant for his jueteng operations.

The computerization project, according to an executive of a computer firm that was handling the project before Sanchez gave it to the ADPT, had four phases – 1a, 1b, 2a and 2b – with a total cost of P350 million.

Documents said that on Oct. 19, 2004, Sanchez requested and got from the Sangguniang Panlalawigan a resolution approving P52 million for phase 1a of the computerization project.

On March 29, 2005, or barely two months after ADPT was incorporated, the provincial government of Batangas issued Land Bank check No. 704475 worth P14.7 million as "advance payment" to ADPT.

A report on checks issued by the Batangas provincial government from March 2-31, 2005, showed that the P14.7 million payment was registered as "accounts payable" to ADPT.

"Under the rules on accounts payable, it can be surmised that as early as December 2004...ADPT was a claimant of an account payable...a full month before it was actually registered with the SEC on Jan. 10, 2005," said the complaint.

But the payment was made for virtually nothing, said an INQUIRER source.

No computers had been delivered by the ADPT when the check was issued, documents said.

The contract for the computerization project, the complaint said, was made without bidding. *With a report from Mei Magsino Lubis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Ateneo students join calls for GMA to quit presidency

By Alcuin Papa

MEMBERS of a student organization based in Ateneo de Manila University, where President Macapagal-Arroyo earned a master's degree in Economics, have called on the President to step down in light of the "Gloriagate" scandal.

The group, called the Assembly, yesterday issued a statement condemning the "President's act of communicating with a Comelec commissioner during the 2004 elections."

"At the very least it is immoral for the incumbent, who is also a candidate for another term, to continue conversations with an election official before the results are final. This in itself suggests electoral fraud. Her admission of such communication, although well noted, has its consequences and can not simply be forgotten," said the statement.

The Assembly "invoking the ideals of democracy," called on the President to step down. The Constitution and the rule of law must be respected on the issue of succession. In the event of a presidential vacancy, the group said, Vice President Noli de Castro must succeed the President.

Also yesterday, a militant group asked the Assumption schools to disown their alumna, Ms Arroyo, for the "Gloriagate" scandal.

In a press statement, the left-wing fisherfolk alliance Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) also appealed to the Catholic Educators Association of the Philippines (CEAP) to allow students from Catholic schools to join rallies against the Arroyo administration.

Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap also called on administrators and educators of two Assumption schools attended by Arroyo to "state a political and moral statement disowning Mrs. Arroyo and lead other Catholic schools in urging the embattled Chief Executive currently embroiled in the Gloriagate scandal to step down from Malacañang."

"In the name of truth, justice and good governance, we appeal to the officials of both Assumption schools to issue a declaration condemning Ms Arroyo's grave crimes against the Filipino people," Hicap said.

President Arroyo went to high school at the Assumption Convent where she graduated valedictorian in her class and graduated from Assumption College where she finished magna cum laude in a Commerce course.

Erap allowed to leave Tanay for checkup

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday allowed former President Joseph Estrada to undergo medical checkup and have his operated knee x-rayed at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center in San Juan after complaining of severe knee pains.

Sandiganbayan Special Division presiding Justice Teresita de Castro gave the order in open court after being informed by Estrada's lawyer Jose Flaminiano that the former president failed to undergo the medical checkup last Friday.

He said the former president should have undergone medical examination last March as recommended by his physician, Lorenzo Hocson.

The prosecution panel headed by Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio did not object to the court's ruling but noted that Estrada should be subjected to the usual security measures.

Dr. Christopher Mow, a professor of orthopedic surgery at Stanford University Medical Center, conducted a controversial knee transplant operation on Estrada in Hong Kong late last year because of severe arthritis, which affected his walking. *Nelson F. Flores*

Gloria needs spiritual adviser to hear, discern God's will, says priest

By Christian V. Esguerra

WANTED: Spiritual adviser for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Amid the present political turmoil, the President needs a spiritual guide to help her "hear and discern the will of God," according to a ranking Catholic Church leader.

"She should listen more to the prompting of the spirit in silence and contemplation," Fr. Anton Pascual, Caritas Manila executive director and head of the Network of Social Action Centers in Metro Manila's six dioceses, told the INQUIRER on Sunday night. "It's never too late as long as you are honest with yourself and before the Lord."

Pascual reminded the President that "nothing happens by accident" and she should learn to read God's message amid calls for her resignation.

Bishop Teodoro Bacani had earlier advised Ms Arroyo to "examine her conscience" weeks before she admitted that she had spoken with an election official, a move that suggested that she had cheated her way to office.

Echoing the pastoral letter of Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, Pascual said the President's admission and apology were not enough to put to rest questions on the legitimacy of her administration.

The letter was read in all Masses in the Archdiocese of Manila and its five suffragan dioceses in Metro Manila last Sunday.

Pascual advised the President to follow the leadership style of the late Cardinal Sin who was instrumental in putting her to office after the second Edsa revolution in 2001.

"His leadership was based on honesty," the priest recalled. "He was honest with God, he was honest with himself and he was honest with the people. People want an honest leader."

Pascual suggested three ways for Ms Arroyo to do penance: Reform the economy as she had promised, answer point-by-point the allegations that she and her family were involved in "jueteng," and address all questions about the legitimacy of her administration.

But the priest, referring to Rosales' pastoral letter, said his group was not amenable to another people's revolt, a military coup and any other extra-judicial means to resolve the political crisis.

Education dep't regains old powers

By Alcuin Papa

THE DEPARTMENT of Education (DepEd) might as well get its old name back.

Malacañang has recently expanded the powers of Education Secretary Florencio Abad by giving him oversight powers over the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

This effectively means the DepEd could as well revert to its old name of Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS). The supervision of the Palarong Pambansa was returned to the DepEd this year from the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC).

Abad's new responsibilities came after Malacañang also gave him oversight powers over the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) a few weeks ago.

According to Executive Order No. 430, the power of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo "to exercise oversight function over the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, is hereby delegated to the Secretary of Education."

The order is effective immediately and was signed on May 26.

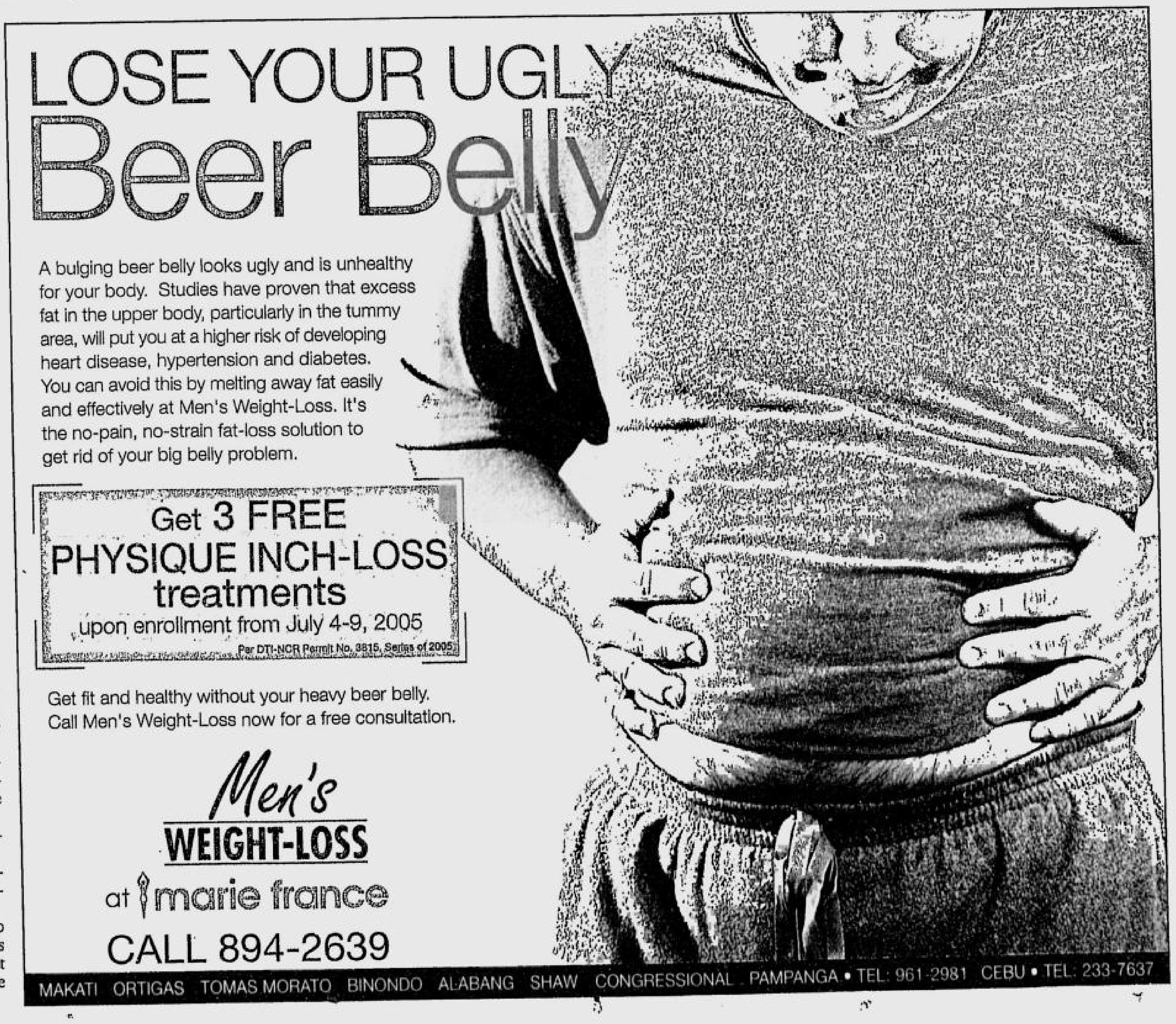
The NCCA was created in 1992 with the enactment of Republic Act 7536. Its mandate is "to encourage artistic creation, develop and promote natural culture and the arts and to preserve the Filipino culture heritage."

The law also says the NCCA is an independent agency obligated to render an annual report of its activities and achievements to the President and to the congress.

An undersecretary of the education department sits at the commission.

Abad is due to meet with officials of the NCCA soon to discuss the implications of the orders from the Palace.

The acting chair of the CHEd, Dr. Carlito Puno, and Abad have yet to meet and discuss the new powers given to Abad and to correct wrong perceptions of CHEd officials that the commission will be under DepEd.



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'Noli scare' used to keep GMA in power . . .

From page A1

assurance that she would step down should the opposition reveal who its choice for president was.

"The challenge to them is that, if that clear alternative is revealed, will their boss resign from her post, if that is really what they are only waiting for? If they will tell us that, then tomorrow we will come out with the alternative," he said.

The Sorsogon lawmaker said the choice of a successor was not up to the opposition but a matter for the people to decide.

Not just GMA

Escudero also said it was an insult to the 84 million Filipinos to say that Ms Arroyo was the only one who could lead the country.

"Maybe not just anybody could lead the country, but it's not also right to say that she's the only one who could lead us," he said.

According to Escudero, Ms Arroyo had lost the moral authority to govern.

He noted the findings of IT expert Roberto Verzola who said that, based on figures of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), Ms Arroyo could not have won by more than one million votes, as the official congressional canvass showed. *(See related story on Page A2)*

"My belief is that whether they stole one peso or one million pesos, they are still called thieves. Whether the cheating was done by one vote or one million votes, those who did it are still called cheaters and it should not be allowed to pass," he said.

Noli must first prove self

A people's organization which backed De Castro in the 2004 election yesterday added its voice to calls for Ms Arroyo to resign.

"We support the establishment of a revolutionary transition government. If Noli will be part of this transition government, fine with us. But he must prove himself first as one with the people in their struggle for truth in the Gloriagate issue and in pushing for real change," group spokesperson Roel Garcia told the INQUIRER.

"Maypagasa stands on systemic change and is not tied to constitutional succession. Political and economic reforms should be pursued and not simply a change of face in Malacañang, as what happened after Edsa I and Edsa II," he added.

Maypagasa was one of the groups at the forefront of the Kabayan for President Movement in 2003. When De Castro agreed to be Ms Arroyo's running mate, the group downgraded its campaign to Kabayan for Vice President.

But Maypagasa remained anti-Arroyo, Garcia said.

Abalos should quit, too

"Maypagasa calls for the ouster of Ms Arroyo and the establishment of a revolutionary transitional government as the only acceptable means to finally end this cycle of political crises created by factions of the elite," Garcia said.

It also called for the resignation of Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos, a move it had been pursuing since 2003 when it helped expose alleged irregularities in the election automation program.

"As early as mid-2003, Abalos was implementing a conspiracy to cheat in the 2004 polls," Garcia alleged.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay said administration critics should remember that replacing Ms Arroyo with someone outside the succession line would violate the law since De Castro was her constitutional successor.

Bear with Noli

But Pichay implied he was no De Castro admirer.

"That is in the Constitution. Why should we look for someone else? *Andyan si Noli. Pagtiisan na natin* (Noli is there. Let us just bear with him)," Pichay said at a press conference.

"For me, he was duly elected by our countrymen, so what can we do?"

Pichay, however, clarified that he was just stating the views of other people and insisted that the President would never resign since she "did nothing wrong."

"That is the answer to people suggesting other processes. There is no other choice but (De Castro). If they don't want Noli, that is their problem," he said. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

March, get wet. . .

From page A1

fices and face tear gas, water cannons and truncheons in the streets to make their voices heard.

"If they want, they can go down and march. That is the only way ... They should go out in the streets, get themselves wet and clubbed," said Arroyo.

He recalled that he linked arms with the late former Sen. Lorenzo Tañada and Joaquin "Chino" Roces at the head of protest marches against the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"Imagine the old Tañada, the old Roces locking arms and collapsing from the sheer power of the tear gas. They always bore the brunt of tear gas, water cannons," he said.

"The opposition should be ready for that. They should not leave the demonstrators alone in the streets. They should be on the front lines."

For the second straight day since he broke his silence on the illegal gambling and wiretapping controversies, the feisty administration senator dared the opposition to set in motion impeachment proceedings against the President.

Arroyo said in media interviews the opposition could neither convict the President nor incite the people to mount "people power" by holding hearings.

Pimentel warning

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., however, warned the opposition against resorting to impeachment.

"The Palace knows that if an impeachment case is filed against the President, it will be thrown out and simply 'noted' by the administration congressmen like what they did to the motions to examine the falsified certificates of canvass during the canvassing of the votes cast in the 2004 presidential and vice presidential election," he said in a statement.

"And I think that is what the Palace wants to happen. This is tactic they will employ so that the move to unseat Gloria will be taken out of the political forum and put back into the legal forum through impeachment."

Arroyo rejected this argument.

"If they work hard enough, they'll get the votes," he said.

Succession issue

Arroyo said some members of the majority in the House of Representatives eventually voted along with the minority to have the tapes played last week after much hemming and hawing.

Arroyo also dared opposition leaders to clarify if they would respect the constitutional order of succession—that is, for Vice President Noli de Castro to assume the presidency if the President should agree to resign.

"This is bothersome because the opposition has not officially made a categorical and positive answer to this question. On the contrary, certain opposition leaders say they cannot accept Noli; that he, too, must resign," he said in a statement.

"In other words, the opposition would like to rewrite the rules of succession, contrary to what is written in the Constitution."

Other opposition leaders, the senator noted, have sought the establishment of a junta, in the manner of a revolutionary government. "Either move would write finis to the Constitution," he said.

"The country cannot have a vacuum of leadership. Unless the opposition as a body officially clarifies this, then their move to make GMA resign is a camouflage for a naked grab for power without the mandate from the people," Arroyo said.

Yesterday, Malacañang accused the opposition of resorting to "rent-a-crowd" activities to boost attendance in antigovernment rallies. ***(See related story on page A2).***

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said rally organizers had been offering P100 to each person who joined a three-hour rally, twice the amount if it rains.

Rented protesters

"I'm just telling them to be careful because the money would not be enough to bail them out if they are thrown in jail or to pay for their medical expenses if they get hurt," he said.

Around 10,000 people blocked a key intersection in Makati City on Friday in the largest antigovernment protest since the wiretapping controversy broke out, but they were nowhere near the huge crowds that had joined the protests that culminated in Edsa I and II.

"Rented protesters are a travesty of democracy," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said opposition forces were bringing in people from the provinces as part of a plan to mobilize protests for the President's State of the Nation Address at the opening of Congress on July 25.

With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Mike A accuses Erap lawyers of harassment

From page A1

Arroyo's counsel and spokesperson, Jesus Santos, appeared before the Sandiganbayan special division in behalf of his client and called the defense move to put him on the witness stand a case of harassment.

Santos asked that he be given 15 days to file a motion quashing the subpoena. The court, presided over by Justice Teresita de Castro, gave him 10 days.

Santos told the court the defense move to subpoena Arroyo was "harassment," arguing that the testimony which the defense wanted to elicit from the President's husband was irrelevant to the plunder charge against Estrada.

He said the defense lawyers were only delaying the proceedings.

"Delaying the proceedings is unfair not only to Estrada but to the entire Filipino people," Santos said.

'Our hand forced'

Estrada's lawyer, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, said: "It was not our plan to call the First Gentleman this early, but with his scheduled departure for abroad to be away for a long time, we are forced to call him now."

In an earlier motion, Saguisag said he intended to prove that as early as January 2000—or one year before Estrada's ouster—the Arroyos had allegedly started plotting to take over the government.

The First Gentleman's return on Sunday night after three days in Hong Kong has stirred a hornet's nest.

Arroyo left for Hong Kong on Thursday night, a day after President Macapagal-Arroyo told businessmen that her husband had "volunteered to go abroad" as an act of sacrifice and to remove whatever doubts the people might have in her presidency.

When Arroyo bade members of his family goodbye before leaving for Hong Kong, some people were left with the impression that he had begun his indefinite sojourn abroad.

Only a script

Militant lawmakers yesterday claimed the First Gentleman's so-called sacrifice was part of an elaborate script prepared by Malacañang.

"No one really believed these melodramatic explanations that he left the country last week to help soften the blows against his wife, the President," said Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran.

Another Anakpawis lawmaker, Rep. Rafael Mariano, feared that "Arroyo's 'self-exile' ... will further increase the people's disgust against the immoral and illegal Arroyo regime."

He said Malacañang's spin doctors had thought that Arroyo's departure from the scene would ease the tense political situation.

"Unfortunately, it has only fueled the flames of the people's clamor for Ms Arroyo's ouster from power. It was a self-sacrifice that was meant to escape responsibility, just like Ms. Arroyo's unacceptable apology," he said.

Mariano challenged Mike Arroyo to face the serious allegations that "he received and benefited from jueteng payoffs, the Senate's reopening of the Jose Pidal scandal and, most especially, his involvement in the 'Gloriagate' tapes."

Mariano was referring to controversial wiretapped phone conversations in which a man with a voice supposedly resembling that of the First Gentleman's was heard asking another man believed to be then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to help former Sen. Robert Barbers win in the May 2004 senatorial race.

Hold-departure order

At a Senate hearing on "jueteng," a confessed bagman implicated Arroyo in the receipt of payola from operators of the illegal numbers game.

To ensure his presence in the country while the congressional inquiries are going on, Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said he would ask the joint House committee inquiring into the tapes scandal to seek a hold-departure order against Arroyo, Garcillano and all those mentioned in the Gloriagate tapes.

Beltran said the First Gentleman's passport should be put on hold.

"It's not at all unlikely that the First Gentleman is already in the midst of plans on how to extricate himself from the jueteng mess, and he's consolidating efforts abroad," Beltran said.

Editor as a witness

With Arroyo absent from the Sandiganbayan hearing, the defense panel presented as a witness Philippine Graphic Magazine editor in chief Ma. Salvacion Espina-Varona to testify on the veracity of an article titled "First Gent of State," which the magazine published in March 2001.

The late National Artist Nick Joaquin wrote the article after interviewing Arroyo on the inside story of events just before and during the Edsa II revolution which ousted Estrada.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said yesterday's proceedings eloquently proved that the defense no longer had "any relevant witnesses to present."

Defense challenged

He reiterated his challenge to the defense to present Estrada as soon as possible to refute all the charges against him.

Villa-Ignacio said Estrada's lawyers in the past three months had presented a notary public, a book author and journalists as witnesses even if their testimonies were insignificant and had no bearing on the charges against Estrada. The former President is accused of plunder, an offense punishable by death.

Cozy John Hay library recalled

From page A1

theme activities, like Peanut Month, Popcorn Month, Hobby Month and Stamp Collection Month, according to Marasigan.

"What was good was that there was interaction ... it was development for the kids. When we had puppet shows, I would invite Filipino and American children to participate. They did the puppetry themselves," she said.

On Filipino-American Friendship Day every fourth of July, the camp was open to the public, and the library held film showings of old-time war movies, among other activities.

Nothing beats reading

So it wasn't uncommon then to see families trekking on weekends to the scenic camp and parents dropping off their kids at the library, or students skipping classes on weekdays to check out the latest best-selling mystery novel or rock album.

"I have good memories of the library. It's a pity we can't afford this for the kids anymore," said Alvarez, who spent weekends at the library with her family and grew up on mystery novels. "They're so into Internet and all. Nothing beats reading a book."

"You would go around the shelves, pick out three books to your liking. Then lie down. Just find your space ... Hours would pass without you noticing it. Before you know it, your parents had come back to fetch you," Alvarez recalled.

Perfect ambiance

The American-style, single-story library had the perfect ambiance for reading: It was built on a slope of the 250-hectare mountain camp surrounded by towering pine trees. Inside, it was furnished with sofas and pastel-colored tables.

The books, mostly sourced from the Pacific Air Force Command Library Service Center in Hawaii, were all hard-bound, which made reading for some kids more pleasurable.

The young users could squat or lie down on the clean carpeted floor. There were separate shelves for record albums and, of course, a separate music lounge where one could listen to the albums inside soundproof cubicles. In a corner was a large TV, used for viewing Walt Disney movies, among others.

Moving books

After the US military troops pulled out in 1991, the library was turned over to the government, and things were never the same again. At least 3,000 reference books were shipped back to Clark Air Base's library, the mother unit.

Between 1991 and 1996, when Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) won the bid to develop and manage the camp, the library's collection of books and albums was moved from one place to another, some getting lost along the way.

The old library itself was refurbished and turned into the developer's administration office, and its prized collection—or whatever was left of these—was moved in 2002 farther down the camp to the marketing and sales office. These are now stacked on separate ceiling-high shelves at the visitors' lounge.

As if coming full circle, Alvarez now works as senior vice president for CJHDevco's legal and corporate services and holds office in the same building where the library used to be.

Netizens

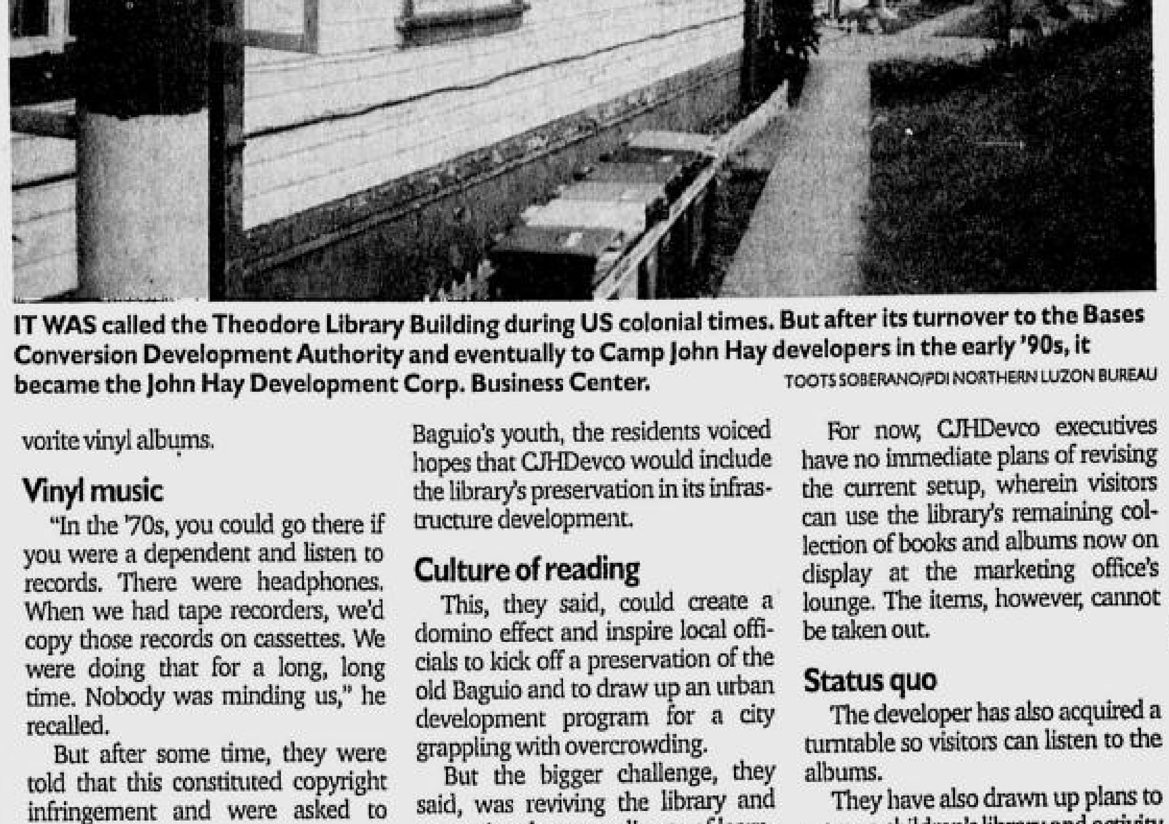
With their kids logging more time on the Net than reading stories like Harry Potter, Baguio residents are pining for the once cozy library in Camp John Hay where they discovered the pleasure of reading and devoured children's stories, classics and mystery novels with little prodding.

"Reading was very much ingrained for those of us who grew up in Baguio," Gillian Y. Cortes, 42, said. "As parents, we are concerned about how technology is impacting on our children. The habit of reading is getting low."

The nostalgia springs partly from the absence of anything like the old library in a "university city" like Baguio, home to a number of universities and colleges. The city public library is a pale shadow of this library; it offers nothing but textbooks for students and reference materials for law students, residents lamented.

Sheree M. Nolasco, an architect and managing editor of Asiageo magazine, recalled going to the library for its excellent collection of Dr. Seuss books, which were once not readily available in the country.

Sheree's husband Valentino would hang out in the library for another reason—to listen to his favorite vinyl albums.



IT WAS called the Theodore Library Building during US colonial times. But after its turnover to the Bases Conversion Development Authority and eventually to Camp John Hay developers in the early '90s, it became the John Hay Development Corp. Business Center. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Vinyl music

"In the '70s, you could go there if you were a dependent and listen to records. There were headphones. When we had tape recorders, we'd copy those records on cassettes. We were doing that for a long, long time. Nobody was minding us," he recalled.

But after some time, they were told that this constituted copyright infringement and were asked to stop.

Apart from the classics, rock, jazz and country and western, the library had speeches of Winston Churchill and Martin Luther King, as well as stand-up spiels of comedian Bill Cosby on vinyl, among others, according to Cortes, the camp's former vice president for marketing.

Aware of its crucial role in fostering a culture of reading among Baguio's youth, the residents voiced hopes that CJHDevco would include the library's preservation in its infrastructure development.

Culture of reading

This, they said, could create a domino effect and inspire local officials to kick off a preservation of the old Baguio and to draw up an urban development program for a city grappling with overcrowding.

But the bigger challenge, they said, was reviving the library and recreating the same climate of learning for residents.

"The climate that the library created for reading, learning, interacting—that's up to CJHDevco ... For you to continue certain traditions that John Hay started, you have to know the culture back then. If you grew up in Baguio, then you will know how to recreate or revive these traditions," Cortes said.

For now, CJHDevco executives have no immediate plans of revising the current setup, wherein visitors can use the library's remaining collection of books and albums now on display at the marketing office's lounge. The items, however, cannot be taken out.

Status quo

The developer has also acquired a turntable so visitors can listen to the albums.

They have also drawn up plans to set up a children's library and activity center at the mini-log cabin built on the center island across the marketing office.

"We don't have a system of borrowing yet ... Until such time that we have the system, we're just the keeper of the jewels. These are collector's items," said Vladimir A. Cordero, manager of CJHDevco's marketing and sales.

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the front-page banner story—'Educators, lawyers ask GMA to resign" — misstated the relationship of Carmen Diokno, treasurer of the Jose W. Diokno Foundation, to the late senator. Carmen Dokno is the widow of the senator — not his daughter.

The same story misstated the name of the foundation's president. The foundation's president is Zeneida—not Zenaida — Q. Avanceña.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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No tap water in 632 towns

By Blanche S. Rivera

A THIRD of the country's 1,500 municipalities are still waterless, the Local Water Utilities Administration said yesterday.

At least 632 municipalities have less than half of their population without access to potable water.

Waterless places are those with less than 50 percent of the population without access to potable water.

"This should be a wake-up call to everybody," LWUA administrator Lorenzo Jamora said in a press conference yesterday.

"We've always been used to water being available, but this may not be the case anymore, so help is urgently needed," he said.

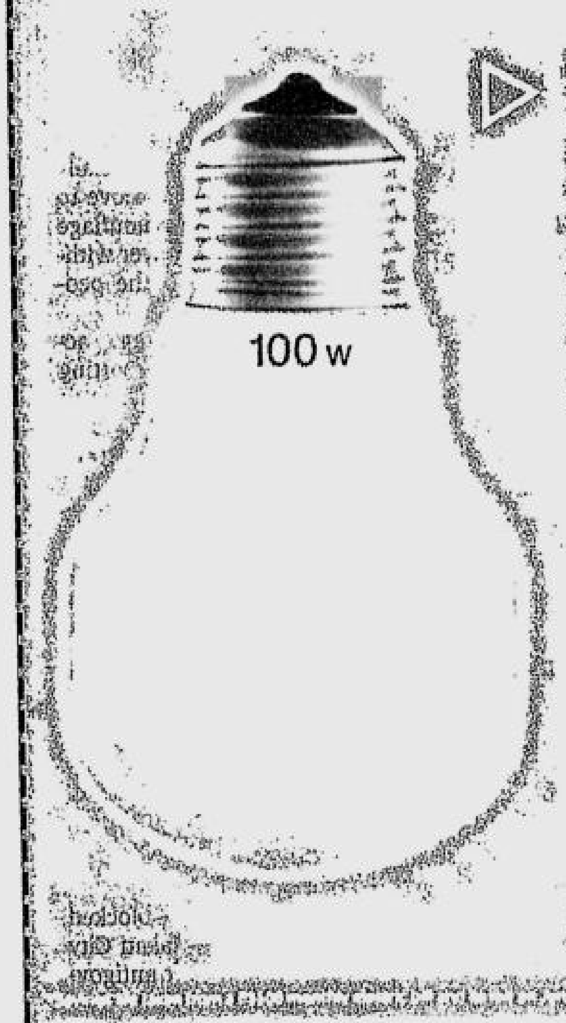
Jamora said the LWUA was striving to create public awareness on the status of the country's water sources, which are rapidly being depleted due to pilferage and systems loss.

About 25 percent of non-revenue water is lost due to pilferage and old distribution structures. Even new systems, however, still sustain between eight to 10 percent in water loss, according to the LWUA.

Jamora urged households to "harvest" rain during the wet season as a means of conserving water. He said Filipinos could use cisterns to store rainwater.

The National Anti-Poverty Commission has identified 430 municipalities urgently needing water supply, LWUA senior deputy administrator Daniel Landingin.

The LWUA is aiming to serve the water requirements of 90 percent of the waterless municipalities by 2010, but this would require around P3 billion in investments annually, Jamora said.



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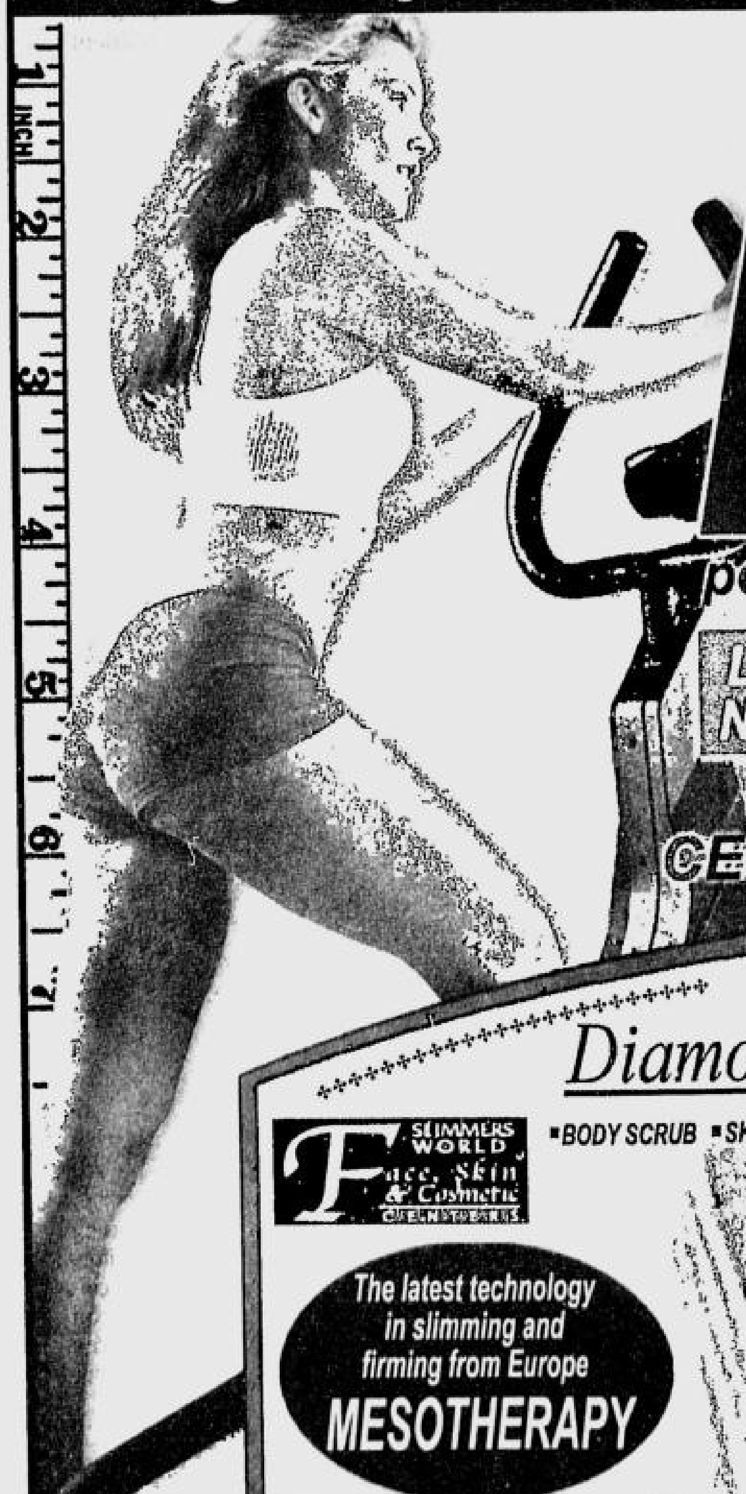

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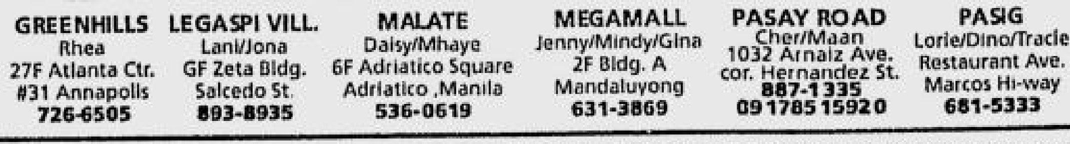

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Peso falls, stocks plunge following SC freeze of e-VAT

From page A1

tutional for the President to increase the e-VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent next year.

Centerpiece

The e-VAT, the centerpiece of the Arroyo administration's economic reform policy, would raise the cost of electricity and fuel, airline and shipping fares and other previously exempt items.

The administration had hoped to raise between P28 billion and P31 billion this year and up to P105 billion next year from the tax to reduce the government's dependence on foreign debt.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said he was filing a motion with the Supreme Court to allow the government to continue collecting the tax prior to a final ruling on its legality.

The court gave each side 10 days to comment, with oral arguments set for July 26.

"We have to monitor it very carefully and see how this develops, both the Supreme Court deliberations on the VAT, as well as the fate of the President," said Agost Benard, credit analyst with Standard & Poor's.

Both Fitch and S&P said they had no immediate plans to change their ratings on the country, Asia's largest sovereign debt issuer after Japan.

S&P downgraded the Philippines by one notch in January to BB-minus, three notches below investment grade, with a stable outlook, citing delays in fiscal reform.

But Fitch raised in May the outlook on its BB long-term foreign currency rating and BB-plus long-term local currency rating to stable from negative, praising fiscal reform efforts by the government to reduce a chronic budget deficit.

Vested interests

McCormack said the court decision highlighted "the difficulty of implementing fundamental reforms in the Philippines, where policy making is prone to derailment by a highly politicized and fragmented legislature, and the pervasive influence of vested interests."

The total value of transactions in the stock exchange reached P2 billion with 106 losers and six gainers. Foreigners were net sellers, unloading P1.24 billion worth of shares and buying P1.045 billion.

"It was entirely because of the restraining order on the expanded VAT reform," Jojo Gonzales, president of Philippine Equity Partners Inc., said.

Investors are jittery over how the fiscal deficit will be plugged after the high court's restraining order on the e-VAT, Gonzales said.

Bankers Association of the Philippines executive director Leonilo Coronel said the suspension of the e-VAT was "disturbing."

"It's critical in the next few days that the Supreme Court resolve the issue. Remember, this is among the critical economic measures that we committed to, so I hope they'll settle this," he said.

Coronel said the passage of the e-VAT was a source of optimism among investors despite the brewing political turmoil.

With the double whammy from the e-VAT suspension and mounting calls for Ms Arroyo to step down over allegations of election fraud, the peso yesterday slid back to the critical 56 level against the US dollar. The volume stood at $333.5 million.

"There seems to have been intervention at 56.10. The peso is well offered there and it seems like the central bank is supporting that level," said a currency trader.

The BSP said there was no change in its foreign exchange policy of allowing the market to determine the level of the peso.

Currency traders said the peso would likely test the historic low of 56.45 in the next few weeks.

Rapid depreciation

Concepcion said the peso would head into a "rapid depreciation" if Congress did not amend the e-VAT within the first 45 days from the opening of its session this month.

He said the amendments should cover the provision giving the President the power to raise the e-VAT rate to 12 percent (only Congress can raise taxes) and the increase in corporate income tax and the cap on input VAT that were proposed in the Senate (all tax measures should emanate from the House of Representatives).

Aside from the sharp decline in investor confidence because of the suspension of the e-VAT, traders said the market was jittery over the fate of Ms Arroyo.

Traders cited the call by officials of De La Salle University, an upscale Catholic school with 100,000 students nationwide, for Ms Arroyo to step down as an indication that middle class support for the President was eroding.

"Resignation would prevent the person from dragging the whole Philippines down, and we feel it has reached that point," DLSU president Br. Armin Luistro FSC said.

Two lawyers' groups and faculty members of the prestigious University of the Philippines' law school have also joined calls for Ms Arroyo to step down.

There are also rumblings from the influential Roman Catholic Church, which helped topple President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

Ms Arroyo's apology last week for a "lapse in judgment" for talking to an election official during vote-counting in 2004 and the exile of her scandal-prone husband have failed to defuse the worst crisis of her four-year presidency.

Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said the public should let their brains and not their hearts lead the way.

"Our main concern is to protect the economy and our country. Our institutions are more important than personalities so we should respect the rule of law," said Chua in reaction to calls for the President to resign.

Dollar bonds steady

Philippine dollar bonds held steady yesterday after they fell on Friday in the wake of the freeze on the tax package.

But Citigroup said it had cut its weighting on Philippine bonds from "overweight" to "neutral" due to the court ruling and the allegations against Ms Arroyo.

"We think these two uncertainties are enough to justify recommending that investors take a more cautious view in the near term," the bank said in a report.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the decline in the stock market and the drop in the price of Philippine bonds abroad had exerted pressure on the exchange rate.

"Aside from this development, the foreign exchange market is reacting to the strong dollar which is being helped by the better than expected manufacturing index in the US. This is being interpreted as an indicator that the US Fed will continue to tighten monetary policy," Tetangco said.

Asked about the challenges arising from the political uncertainties, Tetangco said: "We just have to deal with it. This is not the first time that we're experiencing something like this. Some people have actually characterized the Philippines as events-rich but in the end, this has tended to be temporary."

With reports from AFP and Reuters

Ateneo Law School: Let GMA decide

From page A1

Philippines, said the society was conducting meetings to assess the situation and decide on the path that would be good for the people.

"We need to discern with sobriety ... the principles of accountability and constitutionality that will best serve our country," Nebres said.

In a statement, the 57-strong UP Law faculty said Ms Arroyo's admission that she had called an election official in the course of last year's balloting "implies more than a mere 'lapse in judgment' or simple impropriety."

Inexcusable

"We believe that it constitutes an inexplicable and inexcusable failure to adhere to fundamental precepts of the Constitution," it said.

The UP Law statement said Ms Arroyo took an oath to faithfully preserve, defend and follow the Constitution, which includes the guarantee of the independence of the Commission on Elections.

"A series of direct, personal calls from the Chief Executive, a candidate in the elections, to a Comelec official during the election period, already grossly violates that independence. Taking into account the content of the conversations—which indicate manipulation of the canvassing process, concealment of illegal acts and outright electoral fraud—underscores the debasement of the constitutional right to suffrage, the very foundation of our democracy, and establishes the criminal culpability of President Arroyo.

"We believe that with this glaring failure to abide by the duties of her high office, President Arroyo has lost the capacity to serve the public trust with the utmost responsibility and integrity. She has become morally, and constitutionally, unfit to be President. We are therefore calling upon President Arroyo to resign," the statement said.

Above suspicion

The UP faculty members also called on the election commissioners to resign, saying "they are bound to perform their duties honestly, faithfully, and in such a manner as to be above suspicion of irregularities—a standard they can no longer meet in the current situation."

They also said that contrary to some claims, the resignation of Ms Arroyo was "constitutional."

"Voluntary relinquishment is one of the constitutionally recognized means by which the Presidency can be vacated (Article VII, Section 8). Likewise, calling for the President to step down is perfectly in accordance with the exercise of the constitutional right to free speech, and cannot be abridged through prior restraint or threat of subsequent punishment (Article III, Section 4). We are constrained to reiterate this point in the wake of the dire warnings and threats of prosecution that have been made by the Department of Justice," the UP faculty said.

Andres Bautista, dean of the Far Eastern University School of Law and president of the Philippine Association of Law Schools, said he had sent a text message to law school deans nationwide after Ms Arroyo's confession.

Bautista said the initial feedback from the 100-member association showed the majority believed the President had betrayed the public trust. He said only a few did not share this view and they came from small law schools in the provinces.

Bautista said the response to his text question—"Knowing what you now know, do you think the President has betrayed the public trust?"—was quick and plenty. Some respondents explained their answers.

Quoting one reply, he said, "When a sitting President calls you, only a brave soul can say no to giving her a favor."

Heart of debate

Bautista said the association had yet to decide whether it would come out with a formal position on the issue.

At the heart of the debate on the President's mea culpa, he said, was whether she violated any law. "What is improper is not necessarily illegal but what is illegal is necessarily improper."

Bautista declined to comment on his position.

In the Senate, Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said he was drafting a bill seeking the creation of an independent counsel with broad powers to investigate wrongdoings of high officials, including the President.

If his measure became law, Pangilinan said Congress should look into the possibility of convincing Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to consider retiring earlier than November to head an independent counsel tasked with investigating Ms Arroyo and submitting a recommendation within 60 days.

Davide administered the oath of office to Ms Arroyo after President Joseph Estrada left Malacañang in the face of Edsa II demonstrations in 2001.

In the House of Representatives, Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Rep. Salacnib Baterina of Ilocos Sur said they were disappointed with the calls of some educators, lawyers and bishops to abandon the Constitution in seeking the ouster of Ms Arroyo.

Baterina criticized a proposal by three Catholic bishops to form a panel that would look for people who would constitute a transition government in the event Ms Arroyo resigned.

"They can determine who has sinned, but deciding on a virtual junta to succeed the ousted runs counter to the teachings of the Holy Bible," Baterina said.

"Are the bishops forming a junta? That's heretical! They should adhere to the separation of the Church and state," said Nograles.

Akbayan Representatives Etta Rosales and Mayong Aguja said they would ask the Ombudsman today to formally investigate the President and the Commission on Elections. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Norman Bordadero, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

De Venecia to endorse impeachment case

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuentes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Speaker Jose de Venecia has said he would endorse the impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano against President Macapagal-Arroyo when Congress convenes on July 25.

"It is my constitutional duty to endorse the complaint," De Venecia told reporters here on Sunday.

The Speaker, a staunch ally of the President, refused to comment on the weakness or strength of the complaint. "I don't want to prejudge the work of the committee on justice," he said.

De Venecia said he had not talked with Ms Arroyo about the case. But he said he had listened to the tapes of the wiretapped conversations.

He said there was "nothing culpable, no breach nor betrayal of the people's trust" in what the President did.

The telephone conversations caught in the recordings "allegedly took place after she was declared the winner by the Comelec so what (was) there to manipulate?" he said.

"If she made any calls, it was to protect her because many camps were sending people to Mindanao," he added.

Arroyo will survive

De Venecia said he believed Ms Arroyo would survive the crisis hounding her presidency because "she herself was not involved in corruption."

But he admitted Ms Arroyo was "wounded" by accusations of her family's alleged involvement in "jueteng" and her role in wiretapped conversations with then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

"In the end, she will recover, and she will recover completely," he said.

He gave Ms Arroyo and the country 90 days to recover politically and economically. Politically, he said, the President had made "strong initiatives, very difficult and emotionally wrenching decisions to cleanse her ranks.

"Imagine your own husband sent out of the country and your son taking a leave of absence. These are difficult decisions," he said.

As for the economic crisis, De Venecia said the expanded value-added tax (e-VAT) law would help the country recover. He described the law as "not oppressive but difficult for the people."

He said paying taxes was a duty of the citizenry. "We cannot go on borrowing when we have the solution in our own hands."

De Venecia admitted that there was a need to improve tax collection by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

"Without the e-VAT, the government will definitely collapse. It is something that we have to implement," he said.

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Gov't wants opposers to file bond for losses

From page A1

coverable tax losses during the pendency of this case," the OSG and the DOF said.

Those who asked the tribunal to either nullify the law or issue a TRO against it were members of the minority bloc in the Senate led by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and in the House of Representatives led by Rep. Francis Escudero, various associations of petroleum dealers, and the party-list group Abakada Guro.

In seeking the TRO, the opposition said it was unconstitutional for the President to increase the e-VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent next year.

"If the people could hardly cope with the rising prices of goods and services ... you could imagine the intolerable sufferings they will face once VAT is jacked up," Pimentel said yesterday, adding the new tax "could be a prescription for a social revolt."

The DOF and OSG said in a 50-page "Very Urgent Motion to Lift (the TRO)" that the government was the "colossal loser" in the case filed by members of Congress and major petroleum dealers in the country.

The DOF estimates that should the TRO last until December, the government would lose between P25 billion and P28 billion.

"Losses to the national government for each month that [the e-VAT Law] is not implemented will run to around P4 billion to P5 billion," said the motion, adding that the amount was "unrecoverable" even with the "eventual decision of the (SC) upholding the validity of Republic Act No. 9337," the e-VAT law.

The motion, signed by Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo, Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan and Deputy Revenue Commissioner Kim Jacinto-Henares, among others, said an early lifting of the TRO would limit the losses of the government.

Lifeblood

In asking for the lifting of the TRO, Executive Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita, Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima and Revenue Commissioner Guillermo L. Parayno argued that "the collection of taxes cannot be enjoined being the lifeblood of the nation."

The same argument was given by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Senior Associate Justice Reynato Puno in voting against the TRO, which was approved by 13 justices.

The OSG and the DOF pointed out that in a long line of decisions, starting from the landmark case of Churchill vs Rafferty in 1915, the high court had said "no suit for the purpose of restraining the assessment or collection of tax shall be maintained in any court."

They pointed to another jurisprudence saying the "prohibition to enjoin the collection of taxes is a universal principle."

"No government could exist if all litigants were permitted to delay the collection of its taxes," they said, citing another SC decision.

Likewise, they argued that mere allegations of the unconstitutionality of a law did not warrant the issuance of a TRO to enjoin its enforcement. "RA 9337 enjoys the presumption of constitutionality," they said.

Irreparable damage

They observed that the supposed irreparable damage the petitioners said they would suffer as a result of the implementation of RA 9337 was far less than what the government and the public would suffer as a result of the TRO.

"And in the event that the new VAT law is indeed invalidated, a taxpayer has recourse against the government for the recovery of VAT he has paid," the OSG and the DOF said.

"What is worse, the country has no way of recovering these revenues lost during the effectivity of the TRO."

On the contrary, they said the four groups of petitioners that asked the court to nullify the law were not able to prove how they would "sustain any irreparable injury" with the implementation of the law.

The government had originally set a target of trimming the budget deficit to P180 billion by end-2005, and of wiping out the deficit by 2010.

But finance officials have already made much better projections on the government's fiscal position in anticipation of the revenue impact of the e-VAT law.

Purisima earlier said that instead of P180 billion, the deficit this year could be brought down further to only P160 billion. He added that with the e-VAT law, the government could achieve the goal of zero deficit at the much earlier date of 2008.

Finance officials said they were hoping the TRO would be lifted immediately, as its prolonged effectivity would force an adjustment in the DOF's fiscal projections.

"This (TRO) will frustrate our efforts to bring down our budget deficit from P187 billion last year to P160 billion by the end of this year," said Purisima.

Polish leader arriving tomorrow

POLISH Prime Minister Marek Belka is scheduled to arrive in Manila tomorrow for a two-day official visit, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) announced yesterday.

Belka's visit would "open excellent opportunities to improve Philippine-Poland relations," the DFA said in a statement.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and the prime minister are set to hold bilateral talks in Malacañang.

The two are expected to discuss new areas of cooperation in the fields of maritime, railway, mining and law enforcement, as well as exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual concern.

The prime minister is the first head of government among the 10 new European Union member countries to visit the Philippines.

The two leaders would also discuss how to improve the two countries' bilateral economic relations.

Bilateral trade between the Philippines and Poland amounted to $14.75 million in 2004. Polish investments in the Philippines are practically nil, according to the DFA. But the Philippines has substantial interest in Poland represented by the $100-million investment of Filipino-owned International Container Terminal Services Inc. in the port city of Gdynia in 2003.

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Egypt envoy kidnapped in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Kidnappers have seized Egypt's envoy to Iraq, possibly in response to reports he was to become the first full-ranking Arab ambassador to the US-backed Iraqi government, diplomats and police sources said on Sunday.

Ihab el-Sherif, the head of mission, was cornered by gunmen in cars while on a short trip to buy a newspaper near his home on Saturday evening and had not been heard from since, an Egyptian diplomat told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

"He was buying a newspaper on Saturday evening when two BMWs full of gunmen blocked his way and kidnapped him," he said.

"The motives are believed to be political," he added, noting that Iraq's foreign minister had said just last week that Egypt would become the first Arab state to appoint a full-ranking ambassador to Baghdad since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry, which said it was checking reports that Sherif had disappeared, has yet to confirm its plans to upgrade his post. The Baghdad mission had no comment.

The envoy's white four-wheel drive car was standing undamaged close to a newspaper stand not far from his home.

An upgrade to full ambassadorial status for Sherif on the part of Egypt, the most populous and traditionally most powerful Arab state, could enhance the standing of a new Iraqi government many Arabs view with suspicion because of its backing from the United States and sectarian ties to Shi'ite Iran.

Washington, which sees the post-invasion election held in Iraq as a model for Arab states, has been urging other Arab governments to recognize fully the new Baghdad administration.

More than 200 foreigners and thousands of Iraqis have been kidnapped in the past two years. Some have been killed. Many have been released after the payment of ransoms.

Others have been used to press political demands by insurgents from the Sunni Arab community—a minority in Iraq but the majority in most other Arab states.

A senior Egyptian diplomat was kidnapped in the Iraqi capital a year ago and released unharmed after several days.

The kidnapping of the envoy was an uncomfortable reminder of insecurity in Iraq as the new, Shi'ite-led government strives to encourage foreign investment following a tour abroad last month by Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari and other ministers.

A suicide bomber killed up to 20 people, mostly would-be police recruits, in Baghdad on Saturday. That evening two bombers struck police and Iraqi soldiers in the mainly Shi'ite town of Hilla to the south, killing nine people and wounding 33. *Reuters*

Help Africa, Pope asks Group of Eight

VATICAN CITY—Pope Benedict XVI on Sunday called on G8 leaders to adopt concrete measures to eradicate poverty and aid real development in Africa at their summit meeting this week in Scotland.

The Pope added his voice to the growing pressure for change in international policies, including calls for debt relief and fairer trade.

A series of pop concerts took place around the world on Saturday to dramatize the issue, and thousands rallied in Edinburgh to convince the summit leaders to "make poverty history."

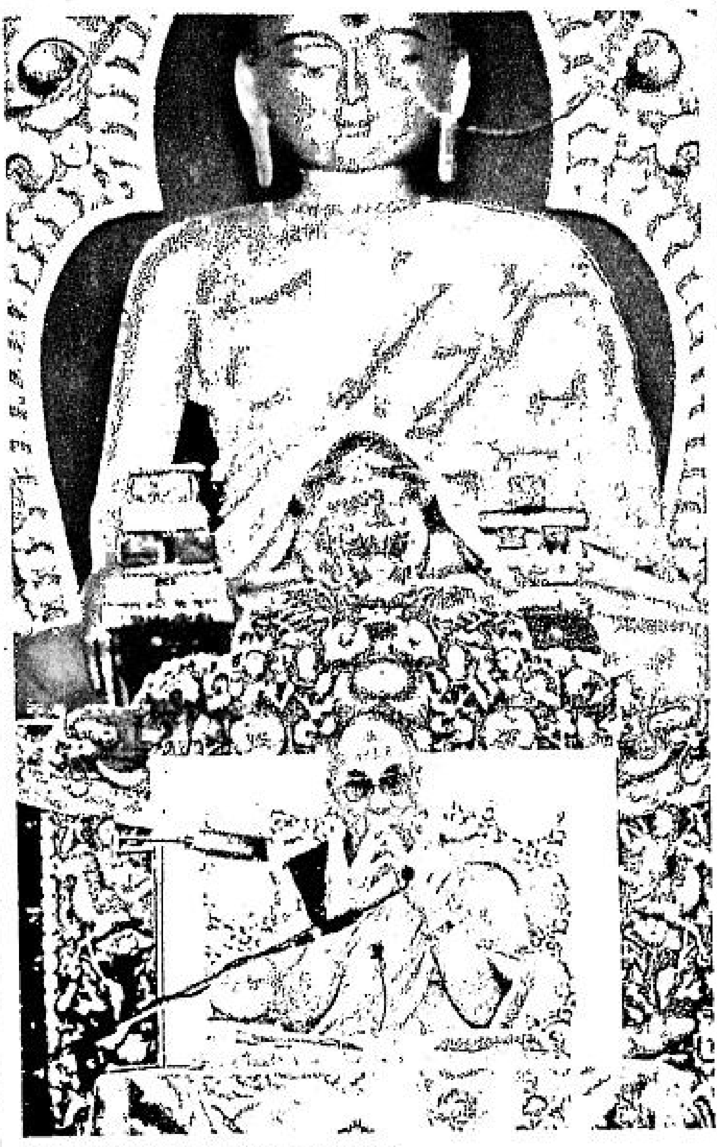
The Pope, who was elected in April amid demands that he take the problems of the developing world more carefully into account, told thousands of people in St. Peter's Square that the world's leading industrialized countries would make the "particularly neglected" continent of Africa its main priority.

"I hope from the bottom of my heart for the success of this important meeting," the Pope said, adding that he hoped it would lead to the reduction of African debt, to concrete measures to eradicate poverty and to the true development of Africa.

Since his election, the Pope has spoken several times on development issues, and in May argued the case for more international involvement in Africa's problems.

The Pope on Saturday also sent a message to the Make Poverty History march in Edinburgh in which he said people in the rich countries "must be ready to accept the weight of debt reduction for the most indebted countries and they must exhort their leaders to respect their commitment to reduce poverty in the world, and above all in Africa, by 2015."

The Pope said recently he would call a special synod of African bishops aimed at promoting "reconciliation and peace on the African continent." *AFP*



DALAI LAMA TURNING 70

Tibetan spiritual leader, His Holiness The Dalai Lama gestures addressing a teaching at his palace in Dharamsala July 4. Tibetan exiles have begun a countdown to celebrate the 14th Dalai Lama's 70th birthday which will be marked on July 6 in Dharamsala, a northern Indian hilltop town, home to the god-king since 1959 when he fled his country with thousands of kinsmen.

AFP

US air strike kills 17 Afghan civilians, says governor

KABUL—Seventeen civilians including a number of women and children died when US aircraft bombed a suspected militant hideout in eastern Afghanistan last week, a provincial governor said Monday.

US forces launched the air strike on Chichal village in rebel-influenced Kunar province on Friday during a search for a missing American reconnaissance team.

"Seventeen civilians died in the US bombing of the village," Kunar Gov. Assadullah Wafa said. "There are a number of children and women among the victims but I don't have the exact figure right now."

The US military said at the weekend they had bombed Kunar but did not confirm any civilian casualties.

The attack targeted a compound "which in our assessment we had to hit immediately," spokesperson Lt. Col. Jerry O'Hara said Saturday.

Another US spokesperson, US Col. James Yonts, also said on Saturday that "all possible efforts are taken to prevent non-combatant injuries and deaths."

Reports said Sunday that one of the missing US special forces soldiers had been rescued almost a week after the team went missing in a rugged mountain area of Kunar. US forces were searching for the rest of the group.

Sixteen US service members died on Tuesday when a American MH-47 Chinook helicopter was shot down by militants.

It was the biggest US loss of life in a single attack since the fall of the hardline Taliban in late 2001. *AFP*

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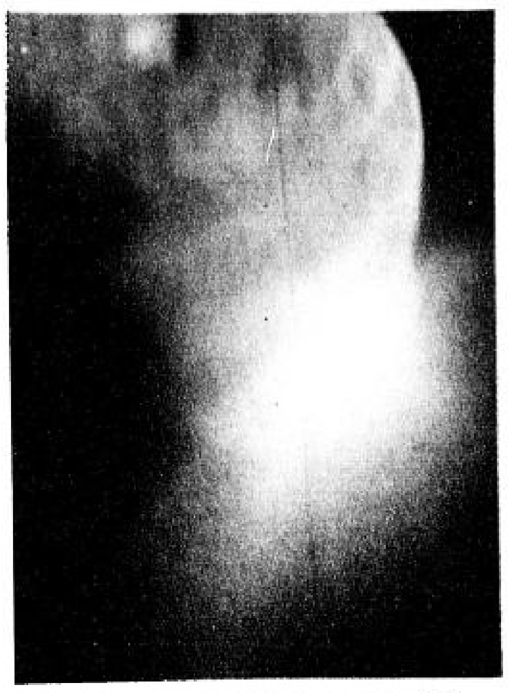

THE TEMPEL 1 comet is shown after the impactor probe from the Deep Impact spacecraft collided with the comet early July 4. AP

US probe hits comet head on

PASADENA, California—A US space projectile early Monday collided head on with a comet hurtling through the solar system as part of an experiment to study its core.

"That's awesome! That's awesome!" shouted flight control officials after the impact was confirmed. "We hit just exactly where we wanted to." A picture sent back to Earth by a fly-by probe showed a bright flash of light as the projectile collided with the massive comet, which is traveling through the solar system at approximately 37,100 kilometers (23,000 miles) per hour and is equal in size to half of Manhattan Island.

The copper-laden impactor was beaming back high-resolution pictures of the comet practically until a few seconds before its demise.

It showed craters, ridges and presumed glaciers on the potato-shaped celestial body that was discovered in 1867 and named Tempel 1.

"We have put a new trail for other people to follow," said Charles Elachi, director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a division of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration that was a key partner in the experiment.

Spacecraft "Deep Impact" was launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida in January, undertaking a 173-day, 431-million-kilometer (268-million-mile) journey to get closer to Tempel 1.

Nasa Associate Administrator Al Diaz said the success of the experiment could be attributed to broad cooperation between scientists and researchers inside and outside the United States.

"It's just absolutely stunning," he told reporters. "To be in a situation where we are here tracking a comet for this period of time and then precisely positioning a spacecraft in a way that creates that environment that is so bright... I am speechless!"

Although incoming imagery is still to be analyzed, the collision was expected to gouge a large crater on the surface of the comet, sending up a cloud of ice, dust and debris that researchers hope will offer valuable information.

A separate fly-by probe took images of the resulting cloud, which scientists believe could contain particles from the comet nucleus.

Comets circling the sun, which are numbered in billions, are seen as leftovers from a massive cloud of gas and dust that condensed to form the sun and planets about 4.6 billion years ago.

Therefore, their geological and chemical structure is believed to contain important clues to the nature of the universe.

The 333-million-dollar sniper shot, in which both the target and the projectile move at least 10 times faster than bullets, was to provide a glimpse beneath the surface of the comet.

Scientists insisted that although the experiment was somewhat reminiscent of the 1998 movie "Deep Impact," in which a US spaceship attacks a monster comet with nuclear weapons to ward off its collision with Earth, the real-life strike on Tempel 1 was in pursuit of exclusively scientific goals. *AFP*

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Difficult options

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's confession and apology last June 27 has bought time for the beleaguered President, but it has not solved the problem of a damaged presidency. In the light of her confession, should she remain in office or step down? If she remains in office, the calls for her to resign could continue and escalate, aggravating the current political instability and in time making it virtually impossible for her to effectively discharge her duties.

But if she has to go, what are the options open to her? One option is impeachment, but as of this time, that could prove very difficult considering that the administration party enjoys a big majority in both houses of Congress. The second option is resignation, but that does not seem possible at this time, either. The President has said that she is not resigning.

The third option is another People Power uprising that would force her out of the presidency. But there is the danger that this time, another Edsa revolt would not be so peaceful and bloodless as Edsa I and Edsa II. The "Edsa III" of 2001 has already given us a preview of what the succeeding people power uprisings could turn out to be. The next "Edsa" could become bloody and violent, should leftist or rightist elements, or both, exploit the situation and take over the movement.

It is significant that some sectors of the middle class are coming out and making suggestions on how the current political turmoil could be put to a peaceful and legal end. Leaders of the De la Salle University have joined the clamor for the President to step down. Previously, the faculty of the UP College of Law, which counts with many of the nation's law experts, said the President committed a culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of the public trust, both impeachable offenses, and should resign.

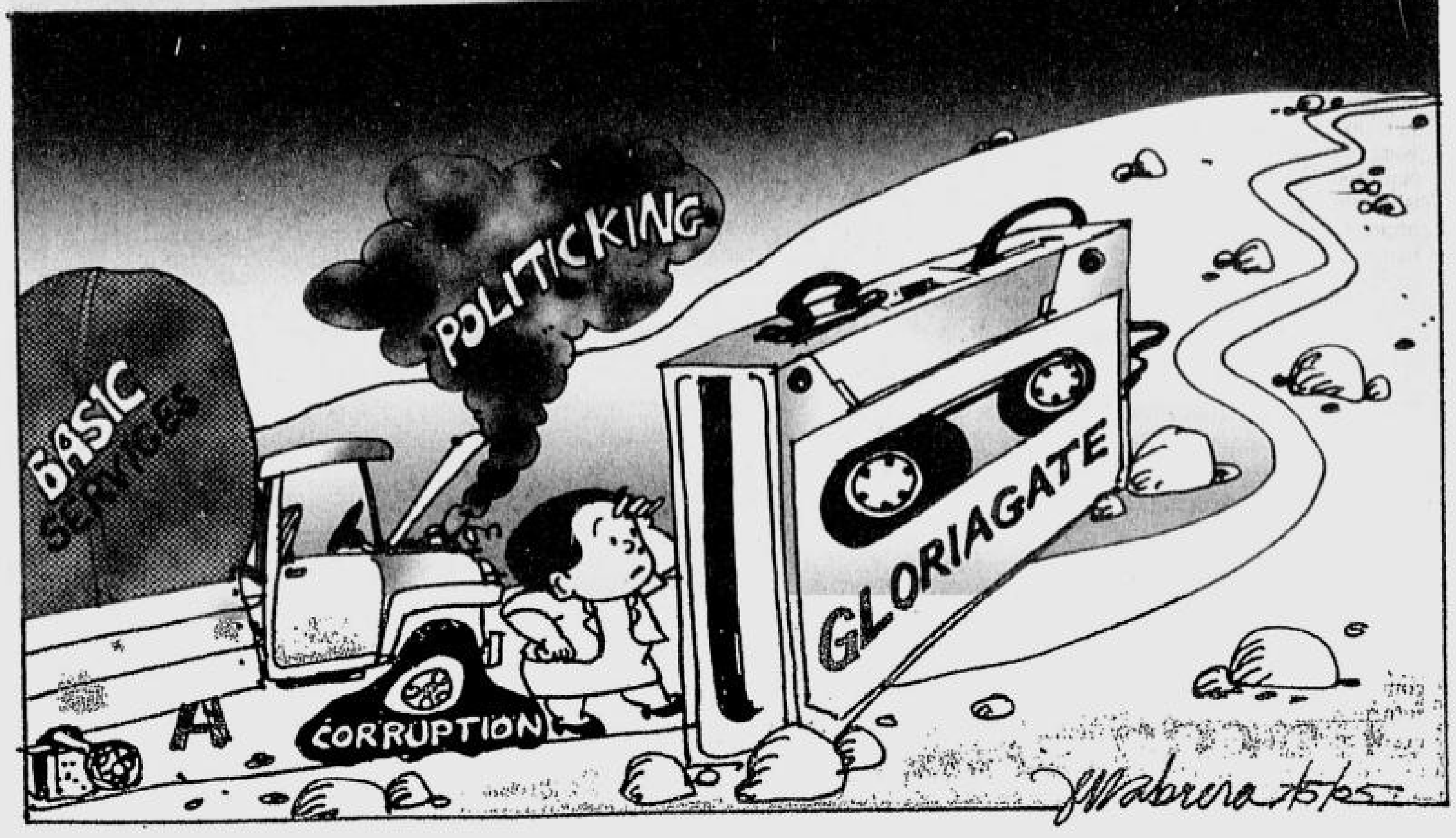
Two lawyers groups—the Committee for the Defense of Lawyers and the Free Legal Assistance Group—have joined the call for her to step down. The Kapatiran Party, a group composed mostly of professionals, has made a similar call. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and the Catholic Educators Association of the Philippines are expected to announce their stand soon.

A revolutionary junta, proposed by some sectors, could turn out to be a complicated, messy affair. At this time, when electoral reforms have not been adopted, the Commission on Elections has not been revamped and elections computerized, a snap presidential election may not be seen as an acceptable option. There is no guarantee that the irregularities that were allegedly committed in the 2004 elections will not be repeated.

No matter what the opposition says, impeachment remains a viable option. Sen. Joker Arroyo, among others, has pointed at the example of the impeachment of President Joseph Estrada. At the beginning people did not believe that an impeachment move would prosper in the House. But then Speaker Manuel Villar railroaded the impeachment complaint through a House that was controlled by Estrada's political allies. Something similar could still take place in Congress.

But an impeachment trial, even if it does take place, is perceived as a long-drawn-out process that will not satisfy many people who want a quick, immediate decision on whether the President is to be retained or be booted out. As in Estrada's time, impeachment is also perceived as an essentially political process wherein the members of Congress can be expected to vote on the basis of partisan considerations and not on the basis of the law and the evidence. If the proceedings do not produce the result that is desired by the people, then again the trial may be abruptly terminated and brought out into the streets. And if that happens, the possibility of violence becomes greater.

All right-thinking citizens wish that any move to get the President to step down would follow a peaceful and constitutional path. They do not want a violent, bloody uprising. They do not want another people-power revolt. They've developed people-power fatigue. If something has to be done, it has to be done in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the land. As it is, the nation has already suffered a lot because of the current political instability. The economy is taking a beating, and life is getting harder. It would be best for everybody if the problem could be resolved—quickly, peacefully and legally.



No guaranteed happy endings?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"IT'S show time," a friend e-mailed. Susan Roces' demand that President Gloria Macagapal-Arroyo resign, he said, boosted a tainted opposition and its tattered communist allies who've failed to unleash people power.

"Few countries do political scandal as well or as often as the Philippines, the great economic underachiever of Asia for the past 50 years," writes the Australian Financial Review.

"The thieving autocrat Ferdinand Marcos and the shonky ex-movie star Joseph Estrada were ousted…in so-called 'people's power,'" the Review's Andrew Burrel writes. "Now rumor-loving Filipinos lap up their latest political soap opera which could abort…Arroyo's mediocre presidency."

"It'd be hilarious if it were not so tragic," the paper adds. "Chronic political instability made the Philippines…an economic basket-case almost without rival in the region."

Will a fractured opposition succeed this time in calling out people for, as The Guardian puts it, a "post-modern coup d'état"? People power elsewhere may provide clues.

Ukraine's "Orange Revolution," Georgia's "Rose Rebellion" and Czechoslovakia's "Velvet Uprising" were non-violent and toppled pro-Soviet governments. Lebanon's "Cedar Revolution" drove out Syrian occupiers. Ecuador cloned our noise-barrage against Marcos and sent its president packing. In Mexico, 1.2 million people silently marching forced President Vicente Fox to scrub fake charges against his opponent.

Since 1990, 10 South American leaders have stepped down before finishing their terms. Mass protests yanked out presidents in Bolivia, Peru, Argentina and Haiti.

But not all people-power *golpes* have happy endings. The Uzbekistan revolt over rigged polls was brutally crushed. In Zimbabwe—where inflation rages at 127 percent and 4.8 million starve—people power "failed to ignite," the Christian Science Monitor reported. Like Marcos, Robert Mugabe's men torture critics and gag media. But the opposition in Harare hasn't unified behind a figure like South Africa's Nelson Mandela.

All the opposition has produced here is a concubine-flaunting Joseph Estrada in bed with a Jose Maria Sison necklaced with the European Union's "terrorist" tag. Sison urged New People's Army "tactical offensives" to support mass actions in Manila, given the stony reaction in the provinces.

"Without any mandate from the people, (the opposition and its allies) would preempt processes mandated by the Constitution," the no-nonsense Sen. Joker Arroyo noted. "They'd write their own ticket to the presidency."

But some constants remain. "Since the 1970s, the trend…has been a gradual global shift from violent 'people's war' to nonviolent people power," Jesse Walker notes in "The Other Insurrections."

Long before the 1986 Edsa and the Berlin Wall's collapse, Gandhi's salt tax protest in 1930 signaled that non-violent protests could undermine repressive regimes and violent revolts.

In his study, "Unarmed Insurrections," Rutgers' Kurt Schock tallied 31 major nonviolent rebellions in the Second and Third Worlds from 1978 to 2001.

Other constants are: outrage from offense to people's values and widespread disaffection. So are unkept promises of rulers.

"People spurn a politics reduced to a mere contest for power between one set of crooks and another," Melba Maggay of the Institute for Studies in Church and Culture says.

Everywhere, militaries are more reluctant to repress demonstrators, says Mexico's author Elena Poniatowska.

In Erap's fall, the Armed Forces showed "it's beholden to an institution, not a person," asserts observer Peter Wallace. But will the AFP see a threat in communist offensives to ram through a transition government?

Protest waves worldwide coincide with democratic development, weakening of authoritarian regimes and growing self-assurance of people, writes Danna Harman in "People Power Rattling Politics of Latin America." From Bolivia to Bulgaria, Mongolia and Mali, popular uprisings contributed directly to regime change.

Education made people more aware. Civil society is better able to oppose traditional elites, says Riordan Roett, at Johns Hopkins School of International Studies. In countries "with weak institutions, illegitimate and corrupt leaders, citizens became actors in the only way they could."

Then, there's media. "The megaphone's power has been amplified by new technologies: e-mail, Internet chat rooms and text messages." Thus, local communists multiplied their fronts. "Behind the patriotic shingle, there's little but a fax, possibly a computer…to peddle propaganda," notes a Cebu Daily News editorial. They'd "manipulate media."

Bayan and Kilusang Mayo Uno tried to hijack Ricardo Cardinal Vidal's name for their agenda in "one of the crudest attempt this jaded town has seen," the Cebu Daily News noted in its Aug. 9, 2000 editorial. "The cardinal's word is good with the people. Not so Bayan. Or Kilusang Mayo Uno."

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, meanwhile, asks that truth in the wiretaps be ferreted out but in non-violent ways. Corazon Aquino and former Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma say: Work by the Constitution.

Erap and the communists sneer at that, just as they did at People Power I.

To scrap the Constitution and install their government, they boast with Shakespeare's Glendower: "(We) can call spirits from the vasty deep."

"Why, so can I. Or so can any man," Hotspur replied. "But will they come when you do call for them?"

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Cheap

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE ONE conversation I had with Dinky Soliman that I cannot forget is the one we had one day during Erap's time while coming home from Antipolo. I had just spoken to their group, Code-NGO, and we got to talking about people. I asked her about a common friend of ours, a former major civil society figure who had joined government but had just resigned (I will not mention her name lest it embarrass Dinky more than the person.) That person had resigned before Erap could replace her with someone else, as was reported in the papers.

Dinky said the person was fine; she had gone back to the folds of civil society. And they had welcomed her, if not with open arms at least with the civility expected of civil society. The reason for the not overly enthusiastic response was that the person who was now begging to reenter their ranks had not been overly civil to them while she was in power. There were not a few occasions when they felt she snubbed them. Ah, Dinky said sadly, but power has a way of getting into the heads of people.

How true, how true. I never thought at the time, of course, that Dinky herself would prove it far more strenuously.

Comes her now saying there is no problem with GMA, she continues to enjoy the support of most Filipinos. "President Arroyo is not the problem for the Cabinet, and I'm sure for most Filipinos. It's the minority that is making a lot of noise, but even one voice of dissent must always be heard. I'm very sure GMA is listening very well and very hard."

This isn't just a case of power getting into someone's head, this is a case of power addling someone's brains completely. I don't know how the psychologists, or psychiatrists, will call it. It's more than going into denial mode, it's being thoroughly delusional. Even before the *jueteng* and The Tape hearings, GMA's public approval rating had already plunged lower than any president's since Marcos. Surely Dinky cannot be suggesting that those hearings, quite apart from the sudden surge in prices as a result of VAT, little helped by The Firm-controlled Supreme Court belatedly issuing a TRO, have pushed up GMA's popularity? Of course, as the text jokes say, her CD is breaking records in sales and piracy, making her the most popular Filipino entertainer of all time.

If GMA is listening very well and very hard, she would have resigned by now. There is no message louder and plainer than becoming the butt of jokes, text or otherwise, which grow more bitterly hilarious by the day. If I recall right, Marcos also talked about a "silent majority" who rooted for him against the cantankerous few like Cory. Ironically, if anybody had a right to say he had the silent majority behind him, it was Erap, who had been voted by the biggest margin any Filipino president ever had. But if I recall right as well, Dinky was one of those who loudly protested this, saying it wasn't so at all, the *masa* had turned their backs on Erap because of jueteng. So now what, the *masa* embraces GMA more tightly because of jueteng and cheating?

That is the storyline of course, the same one the soap entitled "Crying Lady" (my monumental apologies to Mark Meily!) is trying to tell: The problem is not GMA, the problem is the people around her, including husband, son and in-law—the reptiles aSAWA, ANAKonda, and BAYAWak, as the text joke (again!) goes. What can one say? It's a horrible script with a horrible actress. At the very least, exiling her husband isn't a punishment, it is a reward—for both of them. No wonder, she couldn't cry; sadness was the last thing she felt. As did her husband, who may go back in peace and quiet to his favorite suite in Las Vegas. At the very most, GMA's people did not steal the elections, she did. Her people merely helped her do it.

What in God's name has happened to Dinky Soliman, erstwhile head of one of the largest networks of NGOs, erstwhile fighter for the true, the good and the beautiful as a pillar of Kompil? I understand from Yvonne Chua's report that she was one of Cabinet members (who were divided on whether GMA should own up to being the female voice in The Tape), who proposed she do so. And who enthused afterward that GMA's apology came off well and led Malacañang officials into a chorus of "If We Hold On Together."

Hold on to what? Is it possible Dinky now believes a President can actually confess that she defrauded the voters and be forgiven and forgotten? Forgotten maybe, but not forgiven. Is it possible she now believes in holding fast not to truth and justice and morality but to lying, cheating and stealing?

Before that Imeldific display of devotion, Dinky had appeared on TV to say we had no choice but to keep GMA, she was the only option we had. If an ordinary citizen had said that, I would have been astounded that anyone could propose mediocrity—no, more than mediocrity, having to suffer evil—as our natural fate in life. But for someone who used to represent a sector of society known for pushing back the limits of the possible, for rising to heroic heights amid great adversity and at great cost to oneself to damn iniquity, to say that; for someone to rally this country's top officials around a usurper and sing gleefully about communally persevering in ignominy—it's enough to make you lose your faith in humanity.

There's a scene in Robert Bolt's "A Man for All Seasons" where Thomas More confronts a former protégé of his, who has just lied against him in court in exchange for juridical authority over Wales. More tells him sorrowfully: "It does not profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul. But for Wales!"

What can I say equally sorrowfully? It does not profit a woman if she gains the whole world and loses her soul. But for Peace Bonds!

It's so…cheap.

Joker to opposition: 'Magpa-elect muna kayo'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

NAMFREL chair Joe Concepcion called me recently to say how admirable the Ten Outstanding Students were for being able to rise above poverty and perform very well in school. I asked him about the accusation of IT expert Roberto Verzola, as reported in the INQUIRER, that the citizens' watchdog was guilty of trending in GMA's favor by using "*atras-abante* techniques" in the May 2004 elections, and cheating in Muslim Mindanao for her. JoeCon replied that Verzola's accusations were old hat and that they had been answered by Namfrel a year ago. Stressing that Namfrel finished the tabulation of election returns up to an unprecedented 83 percent, which produced a margin for GMA of nearly 700,000 votes, JoeCon said that Namfrel results at the time its tabulation ended showed FPJ ahead in the ARMM. He also said that the grand total for Mindanao at that time showed a lead of FPJ by about 78,000 votes. JoeCon totally denied trending for GMA as he stressed that Namfrel's policy has always been first-in, first-out in the reporting of results.

* * *

Later, the Namfrel office faxed me a copy of a memo issued last elections by its secretary-general, Bill Luz, to all chapter chairpersons, wherein he stressed that he, JoeCon and Gus Lagman had tried to answer those same issues in a face-to-face confrontation with Verzola. Luz wrote that Verzola's analysis of the discrepancy was "plain wrong" because he was comparing Namfrel's 83 percent coverage of returns with Congress' 100 percent coverage of the certificates of canvass—"a case of comparing mangoes to bananas." Luz also noted that Verzola had admitted that between the official canvas and Namfrel's count, the latter was "closer to the truth" and that GMA was the winner. But the most interesting part of that memo noted that Verzola "began appearing at opposition political party press conferences shortly after the elections were over." Luz said the question should be asked: "Is (Verzola) truly non-partisan and representing a Church group (the Coalition of Hope) as he once said or does he represent someone else?"

* * *

Certain statements emanating from a few groups indicating intention to resort to extra-legal measures to resolve the current crisis have triggered a lot of negative as well as nervous reactions, notably from the business community. For instance, Bishops Deogracias Yñiguez, Antonio Tobias and Julio Labayen were quoted as saying that they have set up a panel to search for members of a "transition government" in case GMA resigns. Then there's the group of former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez, which is calling for a ruling junta (by the way, I recall that this group also wanted to do this in the beleaguered last days of Erap, except that few bought that idea then). In a recent ANC talk show, civic leader Carmen Diokno was quoted as saying her group wanted a "revolutionary" government that will continue to govern until a constitution and electoral reforms are in place. All of which means these groups are arrogating power unto themselves outside of the constitutional process. By what power are they going to choose the people for the junta? Such thinking is extremely dangerous as there's no telling where this would all lead.

* * *

Reactions in defense of the constitutional process have been swift and plenty. First, former President Cory Aquino warned against the multiple dangers of extra-constitutional processes. The 1.5 million strong Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, composed of all elected local officials from governors up to barangay captains, issued a clarion call for unity and moving the nation "away from the brink of anarchy." ULAP stressed that an overwhelming majority of their constituencies accept GMA's act of humility and want to put her "lapse in judgment" behind so the nation can tackle the gargantuan economic problems. The Makati business community is also preparing a stand rejecting extra-legal moves and warning of their dangers.

* * *

Then came Sen. Joker Arroyo, who spoke out for the first time on the issue. He slammed the National Democratic Front for criticizing his former boss Cory Aquino for urging everyone to stick to constitutional processes. He reminded the NDF that it was the "first beneficiary" of her presidency (when she released Jose Ma. Sison after his seven-year solitary imprisonment and pardoned Marcos-era political prisoners). The NDF had said it would support the opposition's call for the formation of a council that would choose the next government. In fine, said the feisty Arroyo, "the opposition and its allies are not content with being the accuser of the President, they also like to anoint her successor and determine the process of his anointment." This means that they want "to write their own ticket to the presidency without any mandate from the people, as they preempt the processes mandated by the Constitution." In other words, he told the opposition and the Left, who also want to push out his friend Vice President Noli de Castro: *Magpa-elect muna kayo.*

* * *

At various military camp chapels all over the nation last Sunday, the pastoral letter of Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak, vicar of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, titled "Blessed are the Peacemakers," was read. It was a timely admonition. In the letter, he paid special tribute to the men and women of the AFP as well as its priest-chaplains, saying that they had "a noble calling and good heart and that "the country owes in part the freedom it currently enjoys" to them. Tumulak, who previously served in the diocese of Bohol, exhorted the AFP in these "precarious times" to stay "on the side of peace." He stressed that "our country is wounded already by too much division" and our people "deserve to live in a climate of stability."

Amen to that.

Wrong on AIDS—again

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

KOBE—How could the world have been so wrong about AIDS? And about AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, in particular?

Speaking at the opening of the Seventh International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Richard Feachem, executive director of the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, counted the ways by which the world has been "very wrong" in its predictions about the spread of HIV/AIDS in Asia and the rest of the world.

"We said AIDS was a disease affecting only gay men. Wrong. We said the AIDS crisis would hit only Africa and not Asia. Wrong. We said the epidemic would be small and confined to high-risk groups. Wrong. We said that Asian cultural values would protect Asians from the disease. Wrong again. We are wrong, wrong, wrong."

Given all the wrong assumptions, if not outright denials about HIV/AIDS in the region, "we have come to Kobe to speak the truth about HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific," said Feachem. "We have come here to celebrate successes and to commit to do much, much more" to slow down the spread of HIV/AIDS.

One of the successes that Feachem came to celebrate and announce was the pledge made by Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to give an additional $500 million to the amount already donated by his government to the Global Fund. But while this was much-applauded, Feachem was quick to add that even with this additional money, the Global Fund faces a budget deficit. While it has committed $3.5 billion to over 300 programs in 127 countries, an independent watchdog estimates that only $300 million (or 10 percent of the total) is available for the next round of grants.

* * *

THIS merely underscores the point raised by Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS, in his own speech at the opening.

Governments as a whole have not met their own commitments in the fight to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, as embodied in the "Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS" adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2001. Current figures show, said Piot, "that in South and Southeast Asia, HIV prevention programmes reached just one of every five sex workers, just one of every 20 injecting drug users, and just one of every 50 men who have sex with men. And just 14 percent of people who need antiretroviral treatment are covered in East, South and Southeast Asia."

Piot warned: "If business as usual continues, at least 12 million people will become newly infected with HIV over the next five years. But if we work hard and right over the next two to three years, millions of lives will be saved."

The Philippines is one country in the region where an HIV/AIDS "explosion" has not happened—yet. But experts warn that the potential for an "upscaling" exists, especially since we have large numbers of migrant workers prone to risky behaviors and thus at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. We are also a prime example of the steady erosion of official support and concern for the control of HIV/AIDS. In its "heyday," the HIV/AIDS program of our Department of Health had access to as much as P70 million in both local and foreign funding for various programs. Today, the amount allotted for HIV/AIDS control is down to P7 million. This, even as the number of Filipinos leaving for work overseas, including entertainment work, increases steadily.

Many of the conditions that make a country prone to an HIV/AIDS epidemic also continue to exist, if they have not in fact worsened, in the last decade or so in the Philippines: an active sex industry, a high rate of sexually transmitted infections, low condom use and limited access to even basic health care by the majority of the population. And we might well add to this list a hostile policy and program environment for the promotion of reproductive health and rights, including dealing with the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

* * *

ONE of the more interesting plenary presentations so far has been that on "Drug Use and Harm Reduction in Asia and the Pacific" by Zafar Tariq, chair of the Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN).

When someone mentions "harm reduction" in the context of drug use, what usually comes to mind are such controversial practices as needle exchange, where health outreach workers provide free sterile needles in exchange for used needles from injecting drug users. This is considered "harm reduction" because the harm that can result from sharing needles—HIV infection along with a host of other infectious diseases—is deemed greater than the harm caused by the person's continued drug use.

I told you it was controversial. Outlining the success achieved by his own NGO in Pakistan, Tariq bemoaned the limited understanding by the public of "harm reduction." In his view, the term also encompasses "access to economic empowerment, jobs, skills training."

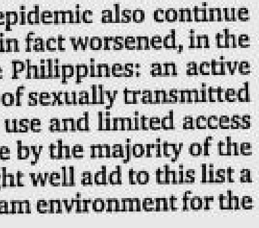
"I don't know how many of us would not be on drugs if we had no means of feeding ourselves and our family," he commented.

* * *

FOR too long, interventions on illegal drug use and distribution have been focused on law enforcement and legality, Tariq noted. "But it's not just a fight against drugs, it's a fight for improving people's lives." The goal of any successful drug program should not just be a "drug-free society," but rather the transformation of "addicts" to "drug-free functional individuals who are motivated and skilled, enjoying improved family and human relations."

"Ask your clients what they want!" was Tariq's advice, applicable not just to those working with injecting drug users, but to all the bleeding hearts—who abound in this conference—wanting to do all they can to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS, but sometimes ignoring the rights and agency of the very people they are here for.

Early customs



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

FILIPINOS of the 16th century wore their hair long. The women twisted their tresses into a bun on the crown of their heads. Both men and women took care that their hair would shine with dark brilliance, utilizing the bark of certain trees for that purpose or coconut oil prepared with musk and other perfumes.

They polished and filed their teeth from infancy with the bark of the bonga and stones, sharpening them sometimes in the form of a saw. To preserve their teeth, they would varnish them reddish black like the Igorotes. The rich, especially the women, would cover them with gold or encrust them with the metal to prevent it from falling.

The men would pull the hair of their beards with small clam shells in the form of pincers so that they didn't have beards or moustaches.

Women, and sometimes men, had holes in their ear lobes from infancy in order to adorn them with heavy gold jewelry. There were two holes—one for a small earring and another for a bigger one.

The men covered their heads with a long and narrow kerchief, called *potong* by the Tagalogs. Sometimes they copied the style of the Tinguians, other times they imitated the turban of the Muslims. The warriors let fall up to the back of the knees the embroidered ends of the *potong*. The deeds and rank of the owner could be read in their colors. Red indicated the person had killed someone; those who had killed seven or more could wear striped *potongs*. However, in the early 17th century, they began to wear hats instead (presumably when the Fifth Commandment was taught and observed).

Men wore a jacket of linen or a well-fitted, collarless shirt that reached the waist and opened in front, like the *kotan* of the Tinguians with short, wide sleeves. That worn by the rulers was of fine gauze from India called *chinina* or of silk from China.

On ordinary days, they wore trousers of brightly colored coarse cotton cloth, but for special occasions, they had gold stripped cloths gathered in front then wound between their legs to catch it in the waist from behind covering up to their middle thighs and from thereon naked to their feet. They called this *bahakes* (*bahag*).

Their principal adornment consisted of precious gems and gold jewelry. The men hung strings of beads or many gold chains around their neck carved thread-like, like the bracelets worn by the Spaniards then. Bracelets of gold and ivory called *kalombigas* adorned heir arms up to the elbows. Some wore anklets. They were barefooted, although shortly after the conquest, they began wearing shoes while the women chose a kind of step-ins of velvet embroidered in gold. They also were fond of wearing many rings on their fingers made of gold with precious stones.

On top of a loose tunic of many colors over a white skirt with pleats gathered on one side of their waists that would reach their ankles and over their shoulder, they wore a kind of swaddling cloth. These wraps were of many colors and those of the women of the ruling class were of red silk or with gold thread adorned with rich fringes. Those in Luzon painted themselves with bright red color and rubbed a powder or black smoke from a caulking substance that was indelible over their bodies.

Those who died in battle were honored in sacrifices and feasts. If someone died by violence, mourning was not lifted until the relatives had exacted vengeance not only by killing his enemies but even others who were not friends of their settlement.

The Ilocanos were believed to have made human sacrifices during mourning periods. As late as the 19th century, cases were reported in Ilocos Norte of *panagtutuyo* or *sibrong*. The relatives of the dead would verify how many fingers the dying man extended and the number would correspond to the number of the persons whose little finger would be cut. They believed that if they didn't fulfill this obligation, they would die in a few days. In order that the victims wouldn't complain to the authorities or wreck vengeance, they were also killed

The Visayans had similar practices. Mourning in general was called *balata*, but there were three kinds: *larao, maglahe and moratal*. They shaved their heads and eyebrows as a sign of mourning and wore white in contrast to the black of the Tagalogs. On their right arms and on their necks, they also wore a band. If the deceased was the head of a family, his male children would promise before his corpse to abstain from eating rice in the meantime and search for a stranger to sacrifice.

For this purpose, they would attack an enemy settlement and their captive would then be sacrificed by a priestess in special rites. Those in attendance drank the blood, ending the mourning for the male descendants.

In order to lift their mourning called *moratal*, Visayan women would visit a friendly settlement to celebrate a bacchanal. The *maglahe* required the rulers to promise to practice abstinence. *Larao*, the most rigorous observance, was required when a *datu* died. A town crier ran through the streets announcing the tragedy. All festivals were suspended and silence was observed.

In their feasts, they would play gongs, a practice that the people from Abra kept until the late 19th century. Men also played an instrument similar to the violin with metal strings as well as the *kudyapi*, a lute of four strings. The women had tambourines of metal and an instrument like a flute that they called *subin*. The mountain people also had flutes and other instruments dating to before the conquest.

(*Isabelo de los Reyes, "El Folklorico Filipino."*)

A vision of renewal

YOUNG BLOOD

Che Francisco

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

THE MINUTE my taxi left the Frankfurt International Airport and entered the highway, I let out a long, deep sigh. I couldn't believe that I was seeing such a wonderful countryside, a scenery that I had till then seen only in paintings or pictures. I was awed by the combination of colors. Had the driver not been going at the minimum speed of 150 km/hour, I would have opened the car window to smell the fresh flowers on the side of the road.

In some small towns we passed, I admired the combination of modern and old Tudor-type houses built to last for generations. One house dated back to 1768 as indicated by the carvings in front of it.

The roads were spanking clean and free of litter. No wonder people like to live in Europe, I thought.

As my eyes feasted, my heart ached. I realized that the things I was admiring were the exact opposite of the sights that would greet me whenever the plane landed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Apart from the crowded city streets, houses of different types have mushroomed all over Metro Manila, more than half of them tiny shanties that serve as dwellings for my underprivileged countrymen. The sight changes a little as I ride through Baclaran and go toward Roxas Boulevard, Port Area and finally my favorite place, Balut in Tondo. Most of the houses I see are made of used plywood with rusty tin roofs. Some have old rubber tires on top to keep the roofs from flying during storms.

The people who live in these slum areas earn less than P100 a day. In these times of hardships and skyrocketing prices, only a few of them would be lucky to eat twice a day. Because of this, I am not surprised that so many people resort to committing crimes. In this jungle of expanding scarcity, it is becoming very difficult to put food into one's hungry mouth. Sometimes this can only be done at the expense of hurting other people.

Unfortunately, the metropolis is not the only one place plagued by poverty. Statistics shows that 70 percent of Filipinos are living in such humble, pitiable condition. The fact that we are among the countries with the fastest population growth rate makes the future look even gloomier, unless something is done quickly to overcome the crisis.

I do not need to elaborate. I'm sure that every Filipino is aware of this grim situation. And this leads me to ask: My dear Motherland, where are we heading for?

If I may say so myself, I am one of those young Filipinos who are eager to contribute and help in rebuilding the lives and uplifting the living conditions of our countrymen. However, I am one of those who feel lost and puzzled over what we should to do first. I know that there's little chance that a single person can bring about the needed changes. I believe that in this dire situation, only our collective efforts would bring about the transformation needed to eradicate the root causes of the problem.

Now I think I have found a solution, a way to contribute to nation building. The answer to my question is made up of two words: Gawad Kalinga.

In English, it means "to give care." But Gawad Kalinga has been doing more than that. It has revolutionized the meaning of nation building by involving Filipinos from all classes and backgrounds to contribute and help in the task of improving other people's lives.

Gawad Kalinga is a non-sectarian and non-profit organization that provides housing and eventually sources of livelihood to our needy brothers and sisters. In the process, it intends to bring about necessary changes in the values of the disadvantaged members of Philippine society. And it does this without regard for one's class, religion or ethnicity.

Gawad Kalinga has one very ambitious vision: to build 700,000 homes in 700 communities in 7 years.

We are still very far from achieving this goal. But with the heroes coming from across the world and its partners working together, the goal is beginning to look possible! We have a strong faith that no task is insurmountable when God is behind it.

I once told my friends that true heroes do not only pray to God for things to happen. True heroes make things happen through relentless action and unflagging perseverance. True heroes stand up, work hard and contribute to achieve a common objective. True heroes used courage as their armor, determination as their shield and strength of heart as their sword. These are the heroes I've been blessed to know through our work in Gawad Kalinga.

I am not a hero and I don't aim to be regarded as one. But I have made a resolution that it would not be enough for me to watch and simply sympathize with my countrymen who suffer. I have to help them in whatever way I can. (Which may be quite ironic since our family doesn't have a house of our own.)

If citizens of other countries are sharing their resources to help people like us, the more I have to help, too.

Three simple reasons drive me: I love my God, I love my fellow Filipinos and I love my country. It would be a shame if I did not play a role in pushing a great cause that will provide renewal and redemption to my beloved nation. What could be more beautiful than the hope of someday seeing "no more slums, no more violence, no more poverty"?

Someday after all the Gawad Kalinga houses shall have been built, when my plane lands at Naia, I will look in wonder not only at brightly colored houses but at beautiful smiles painted on the faces of my countrymen. And I just know deep in my heart that it will make me feel good, like nothing else can.

Che Francisco, 28, is a chemist based in Singapore. She belongs to the Singles For Christ (SFC) community and serves in Gahwad Kalinga.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

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Deceptive call for unity and peace

IN PRINCIPLE, any decent Filipino will agree to the President's call for "unity and peace" amid the nation's political and economic turmoil. But first there must be truth and justice. Without the truth on the May 2004 elections, GMA's call for unity and peace will just be a vain attempt to silence the various sectors and persons who have serious questions on GMA's moral and legal mandate to govern.

We enjoin all Filipinos to fight for truth and justice toward the goal of national unity and just and lasting peace; but let us not be deceived by Malacañang's call which aims to fool the public into simply forgetting the controversies and scandals which is of GMA's making. More than GMA does, we pray for lasting peace and national unity, but first there must be truth and justice.

It seems to us that GMA is afraid of the truth. In fact, she has no moral ascendancy to call for "unity and peace" with the doubts and lies that now shrouds her "presidency." What a shame that GMA was able to keep the country's highest public office through massive fraud and manipulation of government agencies.

Aside from stealing millions of taxpayers' money to ensure electoral victory, the bogus President is criminally liable for the record-high killings of peasant and labor leaders, church people, lawyers, human rights workers, political activists—of people who stood at the forefront of exposing and opposing the massive fraud, corruption, economic plunder, subservience to foreign and elite interests, human rights violations and systematic oppression committed by the Arroyo administration. From January 2001, the People Power aspirations for justice, good governance and meaningful reforms have been frustrated by the Arroyo administration. Before, during and after the May 2004 elections and until this very moment, GMA's promise of economic relief and urgent change remains undelivered.

We condemn GMA's stinking record of moral, political and economic misdemeanors. We hold GMA directly accountable for the gross human rights violations and fascism unleashed by police and military forces to suppress all voices of dissent against her corrupt administration.

We envision a truly democratic government where the people's interests are truly heard and where human rights, needs and aspirations are prioritized over the payment of illegitimate foreign debts and other immoral expenses of the ruling government.

Let us do our share in building a nation where the centuries-old demand of poor farmers, workers and all oppressed sectors will cease to be part of grand election promises. Let us all be vigilant in the pursuit of social reforms for the benefit of the Filipino people.

—AMIE DURAL,
general secretary,
Promotion of Church People's Response
(PCPR), 879 Edsa, Quezon City

Guardians clarifies position on President's GMA's ouster

THIS is to correct and clarify a news item headlined "Even the weather is pro-GMA" (PDI, 6/19/05), which inaccurately reported that the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI) has decided not to join the calls for the ouster of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The account went on to state that "Macahiya assured the President of the group's support and said its stand was arrived at after consultations with (our) regional leaders."

The message that I sent to the INQUIRER, through Marlon Ramos (PDI Southern Luzon Bureau), did not state that position or give such information. What I stated in the message was that our group, after consulting with our regional leaders, decided not to support the call of retired Gen. Fortunato Abat for the formation of a revolutionary civilian-military junta to replace the Arroyo administration. Proof of this is the fact that the account in question was enclosed in quotation marks, as follows:

"PGBI is not supporting Abat's call for a revolutionary civilian-military junta. Neither [is its members] participating in the June 25th 'solidarity' rally. We reiterate our commitment to legal, constitutional and long-term institution-building programs to address pressing social issues."

I would like to stress that the PGBI remains committed to legal, constitutional, democratic and long-term institution-building programs for our society and government. It believes that the present "explosive" issues of the *jueteng* payolas and the so-called "Hello Garci tapes" are just symptoms of deeper and wider problems that have accumulated through time and several, successive administrations. As our nation goes through the present trauma, the PGBI feels that our people should not lose sight of the more pressing problems of poverty, unemployment, homelessness, fiscal and monetary reforms, including the pressing need to professionalize and modernize the rank of the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The foregoing clarification is of utmost importance to us, especially for our leaders and members in the field. It is our view that our Constitution provides for legal and other democratic options that our people can resort to, if indeed they so desire to finally do away with the present administration—but not an extra-legal solution as proposed by retired General Abat.

—ERNESTO R. MACAHIYA,
national spokesman,
Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI),
erniemacph@yahoo.com

ALTHOUGH it is true that Macahiya did not include the word "support" for Ms Arroyo, it was very evident that the PGBI chose to back her administration and not the calls for her ouster. This sentiment was also echoed by the group during its national convention held in San Juan. No less than Gringo Honasan led that event, which also saw print on Page 1 of the INQUIRER.

—MARLON RAMOS,
correspondent,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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DIGANBAYAN
NTENNIAL BUILDING
ERAP NOT GUILTY! ERAP IBALIK!
JOSE VELARDE IS JAIME DICHAVE

SUPPORTERS of former President Joseph Estrada rally to demand his return to Malacañang.

Frightening suggestion

ERAP back as president? As Paris Hilton would say, "Eeeeoooow!!!". *Wala na bang iba?* (Is there nobody else?) The suggestion to have Joseph Estrada (and his shady friends) back is not only frightening, it is totally divisive. I think our country deserves better.

But I do agree that the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo is in its last throes. If she were smart, she should work on as graceful an exit as possible. ASAP! She should work out a transition mechanism that will keep our country from plunging into chaos and anarchy. I am not an expert on this, so I leave the mechanics to those who know better. The only thing I know is that this option will require a lot of selflessness and sacrifice from our political leaders. Are they up to the challenge? That is the crucial question, because the crab mentality among Filipinos is almost instinctive.

Whatever it will be, I hope Erap will be selfless and sensible enough to realize that he will be a divisive factor if he allows himself to be put back in power. He is too controversial and carries too much baggage to be at the center of power. He would be more statesmanlike by staying on the sidelines and just help the country pick up the pieces and come together. After all, he still does have a large following.

I do agree that the Constitution has to be changed. The Aquino Constitution was a knee-jerk reaction to the Marcos Constitution. Like all knee-jerk reactions, it was not objective or well-thought-out. The framers of the Aquino Constitution were so paranoid of anything that had to do with Marcos that they totally disregarded the many good aspects of the Marcos Constitution. They threw the baby with the bathwater, so to speak.

That Aquino Constitution, which mandates elections every three years and a bicameral system, has been responsible for the aimless and shameless politicking that has beset our country. It has muddled the separation of the judicial, legislative and executive functions of government. It has created a system of governance so full of gridlock that confuses and dismays our citizens and foreign investors. If GMA wants to salvage any bit of dignity, she should be selfless enough to step aside.

—JUAN DEIPARINE,
Toril, Davao City,
juandeiparine@hotmail.com

Not for Erap

THIS is with reference to the INQUIRER June 26 editorial which identified me with the Estrada bloc and insinuated that my interest in the *jueteng* hearings is purely based on loyalty and not on public interest. Let me categorically state that my participation in the hearings is not motivated by a desire to exonerate the former president.

The hearings on jueteng are in the national interest. It is important for the Senate to get to the bottom of the allegations because these are allegations that greatly put in doubt all the institutions of our country. The hearing have been triggered by individuals, such as Archbishop Oscar Cruz, who are known to have no interest in the political fortunes of either the administration or opposition.

We, in the Senate, are holding these hearings in aid of legislation. The hearings are meant not to prosecute anybody but to ferret out facts, ascertain conditions and determine implications of policy. Such hearings are a manifestation of the principle of check and balance at work.

Surely, the Estrada senators, Loi and Jinggoy, are fully capable of pushing forward the former president's interests. He does not need me to play the role of his agent in these hearings; neither am I interested in doing so.

—SEN. JAMBY MADRIGAL

Why can't the Church allow GMA the same presumption?

THIS IS with respect to the advice of Bishop Teodoro Bacani to President Macapagal-Arroyo, urging her to "examine her conscience," because "nothing happens by chance [but] everything can lead to something better."

I assume the good bishop went through the same process when, a few years back, the Catholic Church was rocked by a sex scandal involving him and a faithful churchgoer. Didn't he apologize initially, and later on retracted, then took the next plane out to visit his ailing mother abroad? When the dust had settled, he came back, celebrating Masses and preaching the gospel. The Church's excuse then was that "the burden of proof" lies on the accuser. Why Bacani cannot allow Ms Arroyo the same standard escapes me.

We love to whip the *trapos* black and blue for their sins and for dragging this country into a deep morass; but try looking around and you will see that everybody else (with no exception) are "walking the walk, talking the talk" of a *trapo*. Our Church leaders enter into deals with candidates during elections, attend congressional hearings, attend anti-government rallies and issue political statements. But if our politicians are fair game, our society's "sacred cows" are not. No one dares to hold street protests against them and their crimes are easily forgotten because even the media look the other way after making a few reports. I, for one, would like to know the latest updates on several sexual molestation cases filed against priests in Cebu and elsewhere. Or if the different business enterprises of the Church contributed to the increase in the April tax collection of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Or where Sunday collections go, and how Pagcor contributions to the Church are spent. And yes, what disciplinary actions have been taken on erring priests. But I read none of these in our major dailies or in radio or TV newscasts. I believe that our country's redemption is still long in coming because a very vital factor for achieving it has yet to happen—our churches and the religious sectors' have yet to admit that they are part of the problem. Now, that certainly "could lead to something better," don't you think, Father?

—JOJO LABAYEN,
jojolabayen2003@yahoo.com

InqBox

"Gloriagate" tapes controversy: What should happen next?

dapat na ibalik ni gl0ria lahat lahat ng ninakaw nia xa gobyern0..
—Gabriel torrenueva, 14, *aklan*

She must face d c0nseqences of her "lapse in action"; she must step down, or else d people might have their "lapse in judgment" to oust her.
—Lionel, 19, *Baguio*

Impeachment and another EDSA Revolution..
—Hubert Hernandez, 28, *zamboanga city*

PGMA should be asked to explain d whole truth & be ready for d consequence of her action, even being impeached or resign..
—arnold li, 41, *BACOLOD CITY*

Our c0untry shud go bak to n0rmal! everyb0dy naman kc w0uld like 2b a PRESIDENT. Lets f0cus m0re on our econ0mic pr0blem.
—Ma.Theresa Abenir, 23, *Parañaque City*

For sure der will come new isSues na pagkakaguluhan &d tape controverSy wil just fadE.. but of course, GLORIA must be rem0ved frm MalacañanG
—erelle lapitan, 24, *naga city*

new election under new comelec will make GMA know if apology accepted by people. only den will dis nation bury d isyu & move forward
—armond ferriols, 40, *batangas cty*

Snap election necessary to change this graft-ridden administration. GMA must resign now!
—Felipe Esteban, 75, *Olongapo*

Gloria will follow her family for permanent vacation, impeached!
—Bernard Dujali, *Panabo City*

christmas in july! cash gifts sa mga military, teacher, brgy. officials, etc. para hindi bibitiw kay gloria.
—Bernard Dujali, *Panabo City*

a big sorry 2 have a leader wid full of SHAME. GMA shud stop d APPEAL 2 PITY plot, get real, follow what Nixon did—STEP DOWN.

Abangan ang susunod na kabanata!!!

—Aries Ebrado, 20, *Davao*

probably a true impeachment since an arranged one will make a mockery of d Filipinos, or a snap election wid a new Comelec.
—victor santos, 40, *manila*

wala eh, bayaran lahat nang nasa senado at kongreso, mga nag-aral na walang pinag-aralan.
—conrad macatuno, 25, *guagua, pampanga*

The law is the law. PGMA said she talked to Garci only during the post-election counting which, according to her, proves she could not possibly have influenced the outcome. The fact, of course, is that she expressed a need to have a 1-million-vote edge over FPJ, which was enough prodding for Garci to do something. He knew how to do "dagdag-bawas" both during and after the actual voting. The only solution therefore is for the Supreme Court-PET to speed up the electoral protest case.
That she apologized and asked for Forgiveness, is a social and Christian practice that should not be allowed to influence the way of the law. If our system of justice has been penalizing the petty criminals, what reason is there to give PGMA a special treatment?
—Ernesto K. Magtoto, *Las Piñas City*

Give GMA time…time to pack her things & leave Malacañang… for life…
—Jennifer Jackaria, 20, *Puerto Princesa City*

for me, the best thing to happen next, after that tape scandal is for the president to go down and resign her position… she's not worth it after all!! she used her power and the people's trust in her to manipulate everything!!! and i think the next thing to happen is that her husband will now admit that he also is one of the *jueteng* lords. A family of corrupt individuals!! what a shameful act!! for the country's first family…
—Linnea abella, 17, *naga city*

A dishonest Gloria is better than an honest FPJ. FPJ cheated on his wife. He could have cheated on his country too. We have no better moral option. Gloria, the lesser evil must continue.
—scr, 45, *QC*

Do a Nixon, not a Clinton. The admission of Pres. Arroyo on the controversial tape conversation with an election official has so far lightened the burden of some Filipinos. It will not be a surprise if some of us has accepted her apology because we Filipinos are very forgiving people (remember the leaders we toppled 19 years ago?) Yes, we should move on.
However, such admission and apology should not be the end of all. This will only serve as the beginning to search for truth and justice. Because how should we live decently, if the highest leadership of the land has gravely violated some laws and tampered the sacredness of our votes?. Such act is not just a mere lapse in judgment. It was a grave tampering of the Filipinos' dignity. So, should we call for GMA to do a Nixon rather than a Clinton?
—Sylvia G. Reganit, *Davao City*

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'Jueteng' rears ugly head in Cebu

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

DAVAO VOICE
Rains fail to disrupt a rally at the Davao City Centennial Park of a group of protesters who joined the call for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation.

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Chief Supt. Edgardo Gador, Central Visayas police chief, ordered his men to investigate reports *jueteng* has entered Cebu following Saturday's arrest of four persons found to be allegedly involved in the illegal numbers game.

"I ordered the intelligence and investigation division ... to go deeper into this to find out the extent of its operation, if this is well-organized and if the people behind this are from Luzon," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said he did not discount the possibility that *jueteng* operators in Luzon transferred to Cebu following the intensified police operation in Luzon in the wake of the *jueteng* scandal hounding the Arroyo administration and some police officials.

"*Jueteng* is becoming a national issue, so we in Central Visayas could not afford to be lax in our campaign while it is being intensified in Luzon. This is a wake-up call for all of us including the people," Gador said.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Visayas busted on Saturday night an alleged *jueteng* operation in Sitio Kanaas, Barangay Guadalupe in this city.

Four bet collectors were arrested while cash and *jueteng* paraphernalia were confiscated by the raiding team led by Chief Insp. Rex Derilo.

Gador and Senior Supt. Oscar Catalan, CIDG regional chief, said this was the first time in Cebu and in Central Visayas that the police busted a *jueteng* operation.

The police identified the suspects as Rafael Almario, 82; Andy Umali, 45; Antonio Bijara, 65 and Rosario Mondares.

Seized from the suspects were different *jueteng* paraphernalia, including stubs and tally sheets and P280 in cash believed to be part of the proceeds of the illegal numbers game.

Catalan said the suspects were detained at the CIDG regional cell pending filing of charges of violation of Presidential Degree 1602 or the Anti-illegal Gambling Law.

Catalan said they received information on Friday that *jueteng* operation was being conducted in Mondares' home. The next day, the CIDG operatives conducted a raid on the suspect's residence.

Catalan said there was no need to apply for a search warrant because the operation was conducted outside the house.

Mondares told reporters on Sunday that their operation started last week after a certain "Angeling and Cesar" rented her house.

She said these two persons were the financiers in the operation but she could not say where the two came from.

Eugenio Faelnar, village chief of Guadalupe, said he was first informed about the *jueteng* operation in the barangay about two to three months ago.

"I did not mind it at first because I could not really believe that *jueteng* was already operating here," said Faelnar who sits in the City Council as president of the Association of Barangay Councils.

But last week, he said he instructed his watchmen to coordinate with the police after he was informed about the *jueteng* operation.

Port paralyzed as 248 workers go on strike

By Felipe V. Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—Operations at the Culasi Port here were paralyzed yesterday after 248 port workers went on strike to press the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) to fulfill an earlier agreement to release their benefits.

Heracleo de la Cruz, Culasi Arrastre Workers Labor Union (CAWLU) president, said the strike, which started at about 4 a.m., would continue until the PPA honored their agreement.

He said shipping companies were not allowed to load or unload cargo. But striking workers allowed passengers to board or disembark from the vessels, he added.

The Princess of Negros of the Negros Navigation had to dock in Estancia town, Iloilo to unload passengers and cargo. Buses and vans were provided to take the passengers to Roxas City, about 60 km away from Estancia.

Excessive fertilizer use raises alarm in Benguet

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The excessive use of commercial fertilizer is threatening the agricultural environment in the province, and experts are worried that should the application of the farm input go unabated, vegetable production will suffer severely in the future.

Soil tests conducted by the soil department of Benguet State University showed that farms along the famous Mountain Trail had traces of high acidity which, if not checked, could result in the death of soil nutrients.

Dr. Carlito Laurean, BSU director for research, said soil fertility is measured in terms of pH, the official symbol that indicates the acid and alkaline contents of farm soil.

He said the normal pH levels of farms should be from 5.5 to 6.5 but the province's sampled vegetable areas revealed pH levels lower than 5.5.

"Any soil with a pH lower than 5.5 is considered acidic which means that the soil's productivity has been disengaged and thus vegetable growth will naturally be stunted," he said.

He said the growing concern on soil acidity had been brought to the attention of Jose Andiso Jr., president of the Benguet Farmers Federation.

Andiso said farmers were willing to implement measures to solve the problem.

Laurean said the farmers must allow their farms to be tested every planting season to determine the amount of fertilizer to be applied on future crops so as not to aggravate the current levels of soil acidity.

He said farmers can bring samples of their farm soil to the BSU soil clinic for testing.

He also said continuous cropping and the high amount of annual rainfall have contributed to the deteriorating fertility of the province's farms.

The productivity level of some lands fell because their natural nutrients have already been exhausted, he said. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Slain commentator ignored wife's plea

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Slain radio commentator Rolando Morales had been told by his wife to stop his radio program but went on.

Floreta, Rolando's wife, said she had been reminding her husband about stopping the commentaries on radio station dxMD, but her advice was unheeded.

"He continued because it was public service," Floreta said.

Morales was gunned down by unidentified men as he rode in his motorcycle along the national higway Sunday.

Witnesses said lookouts had cased the radio station while Morales was holding his program an hour earlier.

Police, as usual, were clueless on the suspects' identities.

Morales suffered multiple gunshot wounds from an Armalite.

One of the gunmen, who were also in a motorcycle, went after Morales, as he lay dying on the road, and shot his face.

Floreta said as early as November last year her husband had already received death threats through SMS messages.

"I told him to stop with his radio program. Anyway we have a good job and all our children are already working," she said.

The slain radio commentator, his wife and children, are all regular employees of pineapple giant Dole Philippine Inc.

Floreta said she wanted justice "because he died while serving the public and not even getting paid for it."

"I just hope and pray that the death of my husband would not become an added figure to the growing statistics of unsolved killings in Polomolok," she added.

Meanwhile, the lawyer of slain journalist Marlene Esperat criticized the prosecution panel headed by Cotabato City prosecutor Tocod Ronda for coming up with a resolution dismissing the murder charges filed against Osmeña Montaner, finance officer, and Estrella Sabay, budget officer of the Department of Agriculture in Central Mindanao, who were tagged as masterminds in Esperat's killing.

Ronda, who was recently designated by the Department of Justice as head of the panel of prosecutors handling the Esperat murder case, conducted a reinvestigation of the case.

Aquiles Zonio, Mindanao Bureau

ROUNDUP

5 kidnap victims freed

COTABATO CITY—A band of former rebels on Sunday abandoned five persons they abducted in Mamasapano, Maguindanao to evade pursuing soldiers, the military said. The victims were identified as Lito Udto, Mhads Quirino, Brah Ranting, Maha Esrael and Salapudin Kahal, village chair of Barangay Libutan, Mamasapano. Maj. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the kidnappers, led by Commanders Muhiden, Abdurak, Mokalid and Jackpot, grabbed the victims on June 23 for refusing to give them money. Dema-ala said military operations forced the gang to release its captives unharmed. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

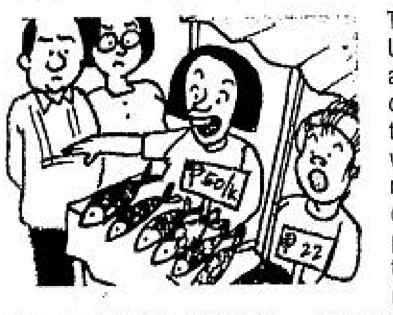
Army major found dead

DAVAO CITY—An Army officer was found dead with multiple stab wounds in a grassy area in Buhangin District here last week, police said. SPO1 Alfredo Robrico of the Buhangin police precinct, identified the victim as Maj. Diosdado de Ocampo, 43, of the Army's 511 Commel Company based in Camp Panacan. The soldier's .45 cal. pistol, two mobile phones and wallet were missing, Robrico said. He said De Ocampo left camp on Monday night in a gray Honda van to meet someone in Barangay Catitipan. The next morning, the vehicle was found abandoned near a subdivision in Panacan. Police found blood stains in the van. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Rural bank robbed

KALAYAAN, Laguna—Unidentified men robbed a branch of the Magdalena Rural Bank in Barangay Longos here and took more than P300,000 in cash. Police said a bank guard, Dominador Villanueva, narrated that at about midnight of June 21, the robbers entered through the backdoor of the bank after destroying its padlock and opened the vault by cutting its lock with acetylene. The robbers also took the guard's .38 cal. service revolver, police said. The bank's alarm system was unplugged, they said. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Mayor warns vendors



TIAONG, Quezon—Mayor Leleng Umali threatened to file a court case against vendors who insisted on occupying the old market site in the town proper. Umali said the vendors would be violating a municipal ordinance for conducting business without the required permits. A new public market on the outside the town proper was opened a few months ago, but a group of vendors chose to stay at the old site. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Poor get Philhealth cards

LUCENA CITY—More than 1,000 poor residents received Philhealth ID cards during the "Philhealth para sa Masa" program held at the Punzalan Gym on Thursday. Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. launched the program in coordination with the city social welfare and development office (CSWDO), to supplement the city's health program for the poor. Lourdes Ruanto, CSWDO chief, explained to the card recipients that not all medicine purchases would be refunded, but only those drugs that the agency has listed. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Barangay chair kills son

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—A local barangay chair accidentally shot and killed his son over a misunderstanding on Sunday last week. Police said the victim, Gary M. Garibay, 33, of Barangay Sto. Angel Norte, died was brought to the Laguna Provincial Hospital and transferred to the Holy Family Hospital. SPO1 Valentino Reveche said the victim was shot with a .38 cal. revolver by his father Alfredo, 69. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Fake phone cards seized

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Fake prepaid phone cards worth at least P30 million were seized here on Tuesday. Jose Calimlim, chief of the Subic anti-smuggling task force, said Bureau of Customs agents intercepted the shipment of 100,000 phone cards, worth P300 each, at the Subic Bay International Airport. He said the shipment, contained in four packages weighing 60 kilograms each, was flown in by a Federal Express cargo plane from Hong Kong. He said the boxes had been declared as containing plastic labels and consigned to Roy Chua, of Dinalupihan, Bataan. The entire shipment was declared as worth only US$25. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Oriental Mindoro awards

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Provincial Peace and Order Council has awarded Pinamalayan town as the "Best Municipal Peace and Order Council" and Barcenaga in Naujan town as the "Best Barangay Peace and Order Council." Pinamalayan received a P75,000 prize, and Barcenaga, P50,000. The provincial body is led by Gov. Arnan Panaligan and local government provincial director Rufino Orcino *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Leyte Church head tells people: Pray for crisis end

TACLOBAN CITY—A Catholic Church official has called on the faithful to pray for and seek God's help for a fast and peaceful solution to the political crisis gripping the nation.

Fr. Nicolas Valeriano, media liaison of the Palo Diocese, said that by praying, "this political problem might just see its end."

"We really have to pray," he said.

Valeriano said the Church was divided on whether President Macapagal-Arroyo should resign or not following her admission that she talked to an election official during the canvassing of results in last year's elections.

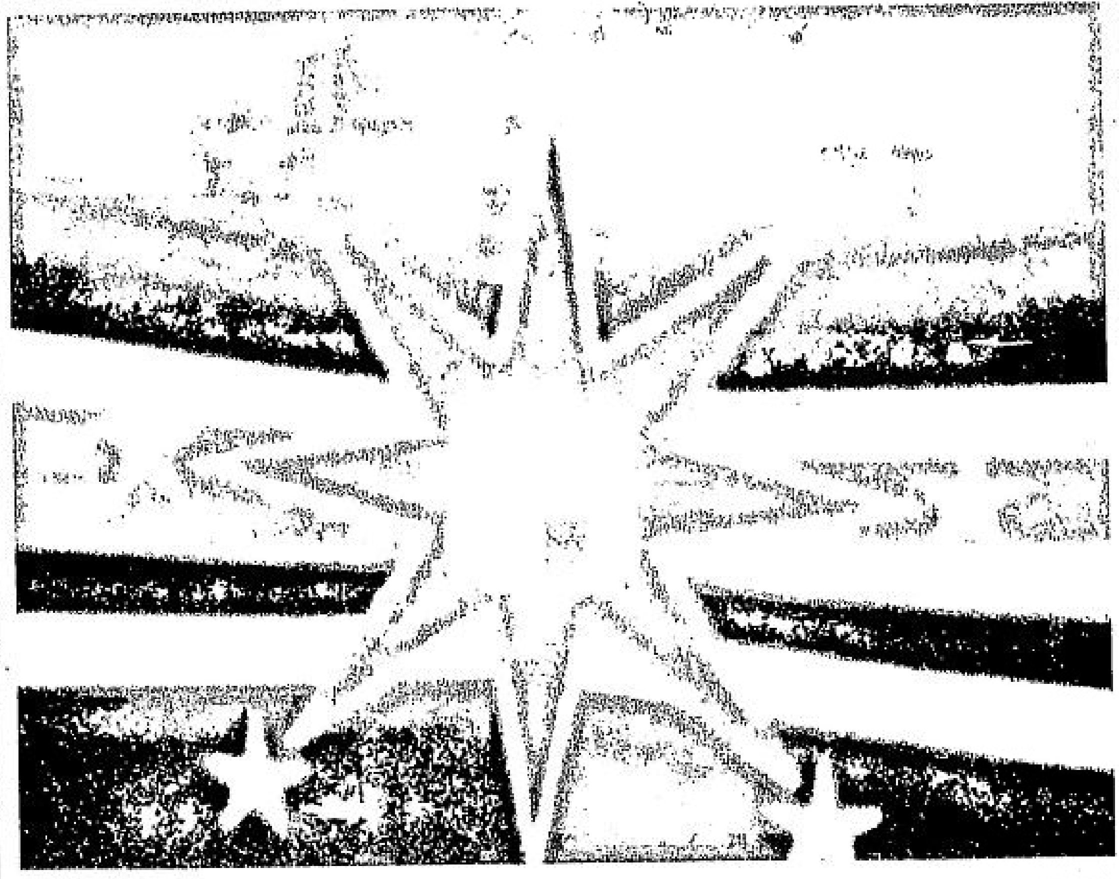
"We have yet to come out (with) a common stand on the issue but admittedly, we have different views regarding this (issue)," he said.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) was expected to come out with its stand on allegations of election fraud against Ms Arroyo.

Valeriano said the President must be held answerable if she was guilty of electoral fraud as alleged by the opposition and her critics.

He added that Ms Arroyo has no other options but to step down for the "good of everyone."

"While we appreciated her (public) admission, it was a strong sign of humility on her part, the damage must be repaired. She has to step down but in accordance with the rule of law," Valeriano said. *Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*



FEDERAL FLAG

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

A proposed flag for a Federal Republic of Mindanao was made public by Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte during his TV program in Davao July 3. Duterte has warned he would support an independent Mindanao republic should politicians in Manila succeed in toppling the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Miners fear takeover by foreign companies

DAVAO CITY—Small-scale miners in Mt. Diwata in Monkayo, Compostela Valley accused the government of planning to sell the gold-rush area to foreign mining companies.

Marvic Leonen, lawyer and anti-mining advocate, said the government's move to hand over mining areas to big companies was not warranted.

"What's the urgency, why are we rushing to develop large-scale mining? Is it because of the fiscal crisis? But if it is, why the amount of incentives we are giving to foreign mining companies?" Leonen, who spoke at a recent mining forum here, said.

Francisco Tito, leader of small-scale miners in Mt. Diwata, pointed to two developments as signs the government was opening up Mt. Diwata to foreigners.

Tito said one was the Natural Resources Mining Development Corp. (NRMDC) report claiming it suffered P31 million in losses since overseeing operations in the gold-rush area in August 2002.

Another sign, Tito said, was the deployment of members of the Special Action Force from Metro Manila to Mt. Diwata. *Anthony Allada and Germelina Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Comelec, Army, PNP revamp set for ARMM polls

COTABATO CITY—The Commission on Elections will push for a total revamp of key election, police and military officials in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in time for the Aug. 8 elections there and amid an election rigging scandal hounding the poll body.

Benjamin Abalos Jr., Comelec chair, said the poll body agreed to bar from election duty during the ARMM election period provincial police and poll officials, including military unit commanders.

The move is aimed at restoring confidence and trust in the Comelec amid accusations the poll body connived with President Macapagal-Arroyo in rigging the results of the May 2004 national elections.

Abalos said the election supervisors of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, including Marawi City, will be replaced by Comelec officials from Luzon and the Visayas.

He said he already requested the Armed Forces chief of staff and the police director general for the temporary relief of their commanders in the ARMM.

Abalos also sought a list of PNP and AFP officers from which the Comelec can choose replacements for relieved officers.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, also Liberal Party head, had complained of dishonest and partial election officials in the ARMM, who allegedly influenced some military and police commanders to rig results in previous elections.

Some of the officials who could be replaced are Maj. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division; Col. Gerry Jalandoni, 603rd Infantry Brigade chief; Maguindanao police director Senior Supt. Medero Mambatao and Lanao del Sur police director Senior Supt. Amerodin Hamdag.

The officers, however, denied that they have been unfair and partial to candidates.

"Some quarters are out to discredit us with their unfounded accusations," said Dema-ala.

Abalos said Comelec commissioners have been tasked with closely monitoring and supervising the regional elections.

He said he will be in charge of Tawi-Tawi while Commissioners Resureccion Borra, Rufino Javier and Mehol Sadain will be in charge of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Basilan. *Charlie Señase, Nash Maulana and Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

SA GITNA NG KRISIS

SAAN PUPUWESTO ANG MGA NASA GITNA?

KUNG KIKILOS SI SUSAN, SASAMA BA KAYO?

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Sis cleared in Alicia Ramos' death

By Armand N. Nocum

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice (DOJ) has cleared Ester Ramos-Bailey of charges that she ordered the killing of her sister, Assistant Foreign Affairs Secretary Alicia Ramos, in April.

The department pinned the blame squarely on the handyman who owed Ramos about P100,000.

"The hottest place in hell is, indeed, reserved for those who bite the hands that feed them. (Suspected mastermind Robert) Lumagui did not merely bite the hands of Assistant Secretary Ramos. He masterminded her killing," DOJ prosecutors said in an amended resolution.

They declared that "there exists more than probable cause to warrant the indictment" of those accused.

Charged with the complex crime of "robbery with homicide" for the killing of Ramos on April 24 were Lumagui, Joel Cenil Ablay, Michael Hernandez Cenil and Jun Maricar.

State prosecutors Emmanuel Velasco and Aileen Marie S. Gutierrez, after a preliminary investigation, said they did not believe Lumagui's claim that Bailey, who suffers from manic depression, ordered the suspects to scare Ramos to force her to release money due Bailey.

"The allegation of Lumagui, that he was merely ordered by Ester to frighten Assistant Secretary Ramos, is simply ridiculous and hard to believe. This is taking into consideration the time the order was allegedly given, as well as the physical condition (and not the alleged mental condition) of Ester," the prosecutors said.

They also noted that although Bailey was supposed to have given her order in December 2004, it was only in April that the alleged plan was carried out.

They added Lumagui should have informed the authorities since he claimed he "owes a bigger debt of gratitude to Ma'am Alicia."

Bailey was "confined at St. Claire's Hospital for alleged manic depression" during the month she supposedly ordered the harassment against her sister by the suspects.

The DOJ said Lumagui's effort to be free of the P100,000 he owed Ramos could have given him an additional motive to kill her.

"Lumagui would have profited most from the (incident), had their culpability not been established. With the death of Assistant Secretary Ramos, his debt to her... would have been considered written off," the prosecutors said.

During the preliminary hearing, Leticia Ramos, younger sister of Alicia, submitted documents with the DFA letterhead that were in the possession of her slain sibling.

One document read: "Received the following loans from Ms. Alicia Ramos 10 Nov—P30,000; 27 Oct. — P20,000; 19 Oct. — P10,000; 26 Sept — total —P65,000." Another one read: "Received a loan of P35,000 from Alicia Ramos."

All documents were signed "R. LUMAGUI."

The prosecutors said the suspects really intended to kill Ramos from the very start. They noted that a Scene of the Crime Operative (Soco) report on the killing showed Ramos died of asphyxia (suffocation) due to the fact that a piece of cloth "was so tightly fastened around her neck."

"Thus, the defense of Lumagui that they did not intend to kill Assistant Secretary Ramos is simply unbelievable, ridiculous and, therefore, unavailing," they said.

The DOJ also refused Lumagui's request to become a state witness, saying "he appeared to be the most guilty among the four suspects."

The Ramos sisters also lost about P1,000,000 in undetermined amount of cash, cellular phones, cameras, a Rolex watch, and jewelry, among other things, after an inventory was made following the incident.

Car bomb attack 2nd for family?

THE WIFE and children of slain oil trader Peter Dy were almost killed by the same type of car bomb that killed him last year.

Quoting bomb squad investigators, Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit chief Procopio Lipana said an improvised "pipe bomb" blew up the family's Nissan Patrol car as it cruised on the southbound lane of Edsa in front of SM City Annex.

The explosive was likely placed under the carpet at the back of the vehicle, Lipana said. He added that it was similar to what killed Dy in Valenzuela last year.

The Edsa explosion, which wrecked the sports utility vehicle, hurt Dy's widow, Adelfa Aguirre, her stepson, Patrick Dy, and daughter Pamela Dy.

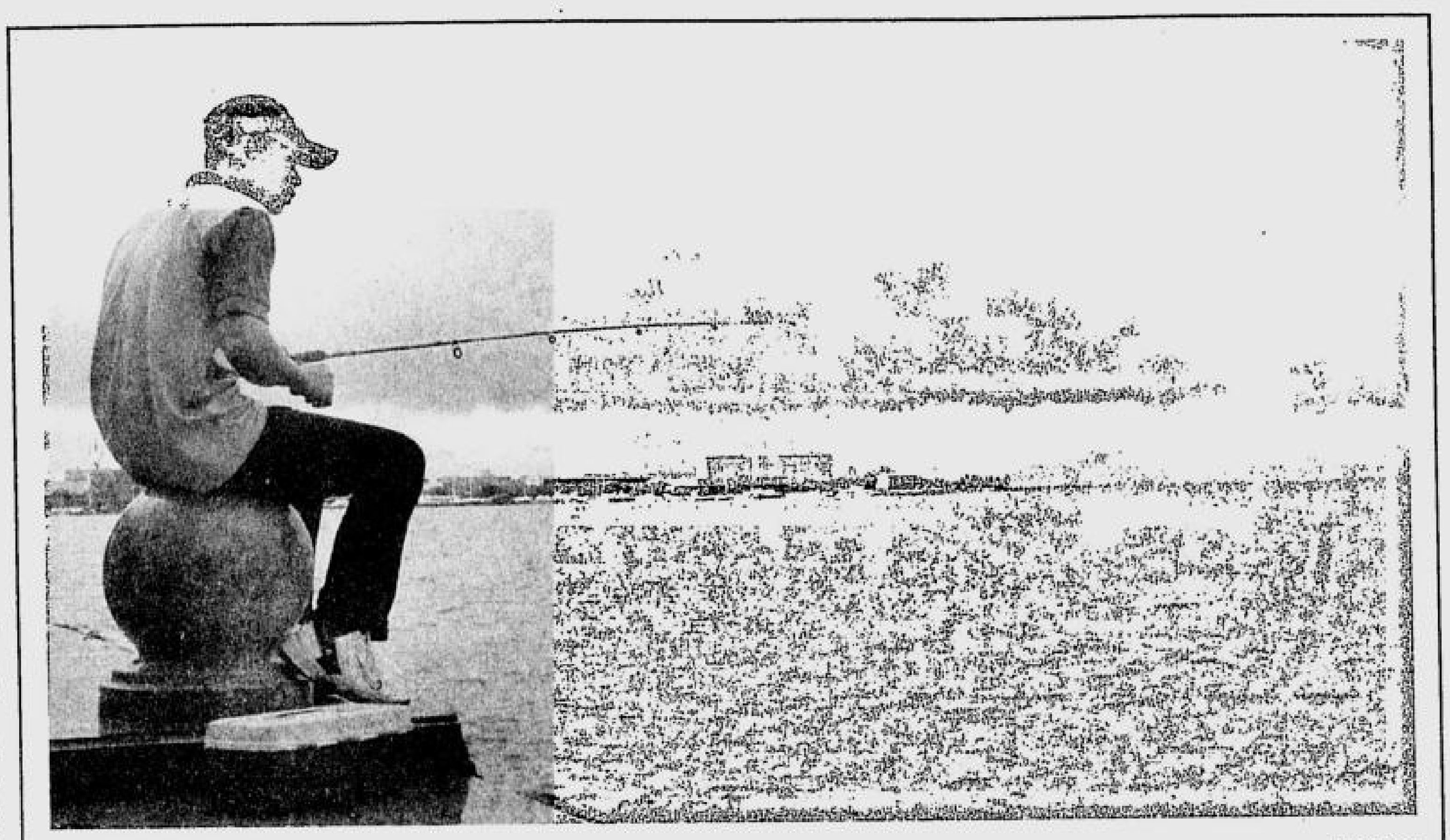
The discovery bolstered the police theory that the same person or persons who killed Dy were behind the attempt on his wife and children, said Central Police District director Nicasio Radovan Jr.

"So far," the investigation had not turned up any suspects, he said.

Lipana said the victims told investigators in initial interviews that they had no idea who tried to kill them. They, however, declined Lipana's offer of police security, he said.

The victims in the Sunday bombing suffered burns and cuts and were rushed to the Capitol Medical Center. They later transferred to an undisclosed hospital, police said.

In April 2004, a powerful explosive tore up the front part of Dy's Mitsubishi Pajero, killing him and injuring his driver and a bystander. *DJ Yap*



ERIK ARAZAS

FISHING FOR LUCK

A man tries his luck fishing in Manila Bay as dark clouds hover in the distance. Rain storms have become almost daily occurrences in the Metro with the onset of the wet season.

Ex-UP prof says Sandigan ruling 'gross injustice'

By DJ Yap

ONE OF two former University of the Philippines officials sentenced to 17 years in jail for graft and unethical conduct by the Sandiganbayan vehemently protested the ruling, calling it "utterly unfair, unjust, cruel and senseless."

Former UP Diliman Chancellor and faculty member Roger Posadas said the antigraft court's decision was an "extremely gross injustice" to him and former Vice-Chancellor Rolando Dayco, as he denied any wrongdoing on their part.

Last June, the Sandiganbayan found Posadas and Dayco guilty of violations of graft laws and the public officials' code of ethical conduct. Apart from the 14- to 17-year sentence, the court also disqualified both from ever holding public office. The two were also ordered to pay the government P336,000. The case is not yet final and executory, and may be appealed before the Supreme Court.

In a strongly-worded statement, Posadas said: "We did not embezzle nor steal nor misappropriate any UP funds, nor did we receive any kickbacks, or commissions, or bribes. And neither did we cause any financial loss or disadvantage to the UP or the government."

He said the punishment of 14-17 years imprisonment was "ridiculously out of proportion" to the alleged offense.

Posadas explained that his case had to do with a P4.5-million foreign-funded project to design 15 graduate courses for a Master's program, which he packaged and proposed to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) through the National Economic Development Authority (Neda) in 1995.

"For my work in this project, I received about P275,000 as consultancy fees and honoraria; Dr. Dayco did not receive a single centavo," he said.

Instead of rewarding him for bringing in externally funded research, then UP President Emil Javier "unjustly prosecuted and persecuted" him after a series of policy conflicts in 1995-1996, Posadas said.

In 1998, Javier filed an administrative case against Posadas and Dayco, claiming that Dayco violated administrative rules by appointing Posadas director of the project.

The two were later charged before the Office of the Ombudsman by UP general-counsel Carmelita Yadao-Guno. Finding probable cause, the Ombudsman submitted the cases to the Sandiganbayan.

Mastermind in pawnshop robbery falls

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE MASTERMIND in the robbery of a pawnshop in Parañaque City that resulted in the death of a messenger was arrested by the police shortly before lunch yesterday.

Norberto Parado, 52, of 4th Estate Sitio Fatima, Barangay San Isidro, Parañaque City, was caught at 11 a.m. near the scene of the crime on Lopez Avenue in the same barangay, city police chief Supt. Ronald Estilles told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Bienvenido Comingha, a messenger for Isidro Gan Pawnshop, was shot Friday morning by three armed men who tried to run off with the victim's collection for the day.

Two of the suspects, Efren Balena and Buboy del Monte, died after a gun battle with police.

Their companion Catalino Pasada Jr., who was hit in the left palm, was arrested by police.

Pasada claimed that Parado had given them information about the messenger's whereabouts.

He also told police that Parado had even accompanied them to the pawnshop's vicinity and conducted surveillance two days before the robbery, Estilles said.

Parado was allegedly a friend of the victim.

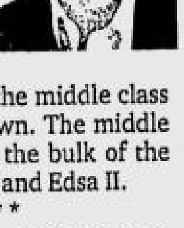
"He was able to give details to the three men because his locksmith's booth was in front of the pawnshop," said Estilles.

Although Parado denied Pasada's allegations, police said the former had given them an accurate description of Pasada before he was arrested.

GMA has cause for worry

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



THE PARTICIPATION of professionals and educators in the call for her resignation should be cause for worry for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

At least two lawyers' groups, and administrators of the upscale De La Salle University and its affiliated schools, have added their voices to the clamor for Ms Arroyo to resign.

Professionals and educators belong to the middle class, the backbone of the President's supporters.

From the ranks of the middle class come the top officials in government, the military and police. Also from the middle class are lawyers, doctors, engineers, accountants, teachers, medium-scale businessmen and top-level executives in big companies.

In short, the middle class is composed of the intelligentsia or the thinking members of society.

Although outnumbered by the poor, members of the middle class rule this country.

The poor elected former President Erap, but the middle class brought him down. The middle class comprised the bulk of the crowds at Edsa I and Edsa II.

* * *

The crowd on Ayala Avenue, Makati City, bastion of the middle class, last Friday was definitely not predominantly middle class. Reports say that most of the crowd was "*hakot* (trucked in)."

A front-page story in Bandera, a sister publication of the INQUIRER, yesterday said some people who took part in the Ayala anti-GMA protest complained of having been gypped of several pesos by rally organizers.

The complainants said that they were only paid P30 instead of the P250 they were promised. So, there goes your Ayala protest action!

* * *

Administration Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said Armed Forces brigadier generals and senior colonels won't leave the President in these critical times.

Biazon, former Marine commandant and Armed Forces chief of staff, said he learned about the sentiments of top-ranking officers in talks he had with them.

But did Biazon ask those officers what they think of the AFP chief of staff, Gen. Efren Abu?

Had the good senator and former AFP chief done that, he would have found that most officers have lost respect for their chief of staff.

Abu was supposed to have retired late last month, but his term was extended until August.

That's the cause of the demoralization. Officers and rank-and-file members of the military look at Abu with disdain because of what they think were unnecessary projects he had undertaken, like the Camp Aguinaldo sidewalk renovation and the Boracay military resort.

Disgruntled officers and enlisted personnel I talked to say wounded soldiers die in the field during battle because there are no medicines and medical facilities.

* * *

If I were Ms Arroyo, I would have the implementation of the expanded value-added tax, or e-VAT, withheld indefinitely even after the Supreme Court order shall have expired.

The high court suspended the implementation of the e-VAT following a petition filed by the opposition.

The e-VAT will result in the shooting up of the prices of basic goods and services. It would be political suicide for the President to insist on implementing the e-VAT at this time, or in the near future.

Taxi operators seek ₱10-₱20 fare increase

By Clarissa S. Batino

TAXI operators are seeking a P10 to P20 increase in the flag-down rate in the event the government resumes the implementation of the 10-percent expanded value-added tax (e-VAT).

Bong Suntay, president of the Philippine National Taxi Operators Association, said that if the VAT would be implemented, then the group has no choice but to petition for a fare increase.

Taxis last increased their fares last year to P30 on flag down (covering the first 500 meters), with P2.50 for every succeeding 300 meters and P2.50 for every two minutes of waiting time.

The 10-percent e-VAT was implemented on July 1, but was withdrawn the next day after the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order following moves of the opposition to block its implementation.

Fuel taxes were previously exempt from the VAT. But once in place, gasoline prices could go up by almost P3 a liter, and 55 centavos a liter for diesel.

For now, Suntay said, operators were shouldering the burden of the increases in gasoline prices. Gasoline now costs P28.85 to P31.49 per liter.

He said his group, collectively operating 12,000 units, was still evaluating the petition they may file in the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

"Personally, I think P10 is sufficient for the meantime. But others are saying it should be P20. Others also want an additional increase on the succeeding distance," he said.

Taxi operators, Suntay added, were mindful of the need to balance their need for a fare increase with the capacity of passengers to pay. "*Walang pera ang mga Pilipino. Ang hirap talaga ng buhay* (Filipinos have no money. Life is hard)," he said.

The National Taxi Association Federation, where Suntay is also president, will meet later this week to discuss the strategy in light of continuing increases in gasoline prices.

The LTFRB is trying to avert an increase in taxi fares by helping operators to convert their units so these would run on liquefied petroleum gas or LPG instead of the more expensive gasoline.

LTFRB Chair Maria Elena Bautista said the agency was also helping taxis look for financing to facilitate the conversion that would cost between P15,000 and P20,000 each.

"We are trying to help them convert from gasoline to LPG. It would be more practical if they would buy the conversion kits in bulk as it comes out cheaper," Bautista added.

According to last year's figures, there are about 42,000 registered taxis.

Explain 'shady' pedicab scheme, WPD exec asked

By Margaux C. Ortiz

EXPLAIN this racket in three days.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday gave this order to Western District Traffic and Enforcement Office chief Cesar Javier, requiring him to explain "why he should not be charged in connection with an alleged racket to illegally raise money from pedicab and tricycle operators and drivers in the city."

Atienza ordered his executive secretary Emmanuel Sison to issue the memorandum to Javier after receiving reports that some city officials may have also been involved with the traffic chief in the illegal operation.

Atienza also instructed Sison to file appropriate charges against those involved in the scheme.

The mayor had learned that associations of pedicab and tricycle operators and drivers in the barangays were being forced to pay P10,000 in membership fees, and to buy stickers worth P250 for a shady umbrella organization, or else their vehicles would be impounded.

Javier could not be reached for comment.

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Suspect in TV director slay gives up

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Tarra V. Quismundo

THE PRIMARY suspect in the killing of television director Louis Santiago surrendered to agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Marikina City last Sunday.

Businessman Oliver Jameiro, 32, initially resisted arrest, but eventually gave up when agents of the bureau's Background Investigation Division (BID) identified themselves, according to NBI National Capital Region chief Edmund Arugay.

Arugay said an informant had tipped the bureau that Jameiro had been staying at the house of his former girlfriend, Cris Baladad, on Miguelito Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City.

Feelers

"We also received information that Jameiro had wanted to surrender to authorities," Arugay added.

Arugay said they are set to file appropriate charges against the suspect before the Department of Justice.

In a television interview with ABS-CBN, Jameiro confessed that he "indiscriminately fired shots" outside the Venezia bar or V-Bar at the Ayala Center in Makati City last June 8.

Santiago was fatally hit during the shooting. Six others, including a responding police officer, were hurt.

Jameiro said he was with three other companions when he saw a girl he knew being harassed by a man. He claimed he was hit by the man as he tried to pacify the two. This led to a fight in a parking lot nearby.

Jameiro said he remembered being beaten up and had crawled toward his car with a bloodied face and a swollen right eye. He added that somebody handed him a gun which, in anger, he used to fire at the crowd.

After the incident, Jameiro said he fled the scene and headed to Makati Avenue, tossing the gun into a nearby plant box.

A security officer, however, said he saw Jameiro board a Toyota Hi-Lux pick-up with plate number XTW-280 after the incident.

A guard stationed at the bar entrance confirmed the information, saying he saw Jameiro firing at the crowd during the brawl.

Jameiro will be presented at the NBI headquarters today in a press conference, bureau officials said.

Relieved

"We're relieved, knowing that he has been caught," said Nicolo Santiago, the late director's younger brother.

The arrest ended a month-long search for the suspect who, until his fall, was only identified as "Oliver," based on witness accounts.

None of the names the Makati Police Department submitted in a charge sheet sent to the Makati City Prosecutor's Office—Oliver Perez, Oliver Angeles and Oliver Castro—matched the name of the suspect the NBI caught in Marikina.

The identity of the suspect came up in a check with the Department of Foreign Affairs, said Makati police.

With a complete name on hand, they coordinated with the NBI, leading to the suspect's arrest.

Jameiro's arrest was, however, entirely an NBI operation.

"There could be more than one person involved in the shooting... possibly the people he was with, his accomplices, anybody involved," said the younger Santiago.

He said that based on what he heard from witnesses, somebody could have handed the suspect the gun he randomly fired in the midst of the brawl.

Getaway vehicle

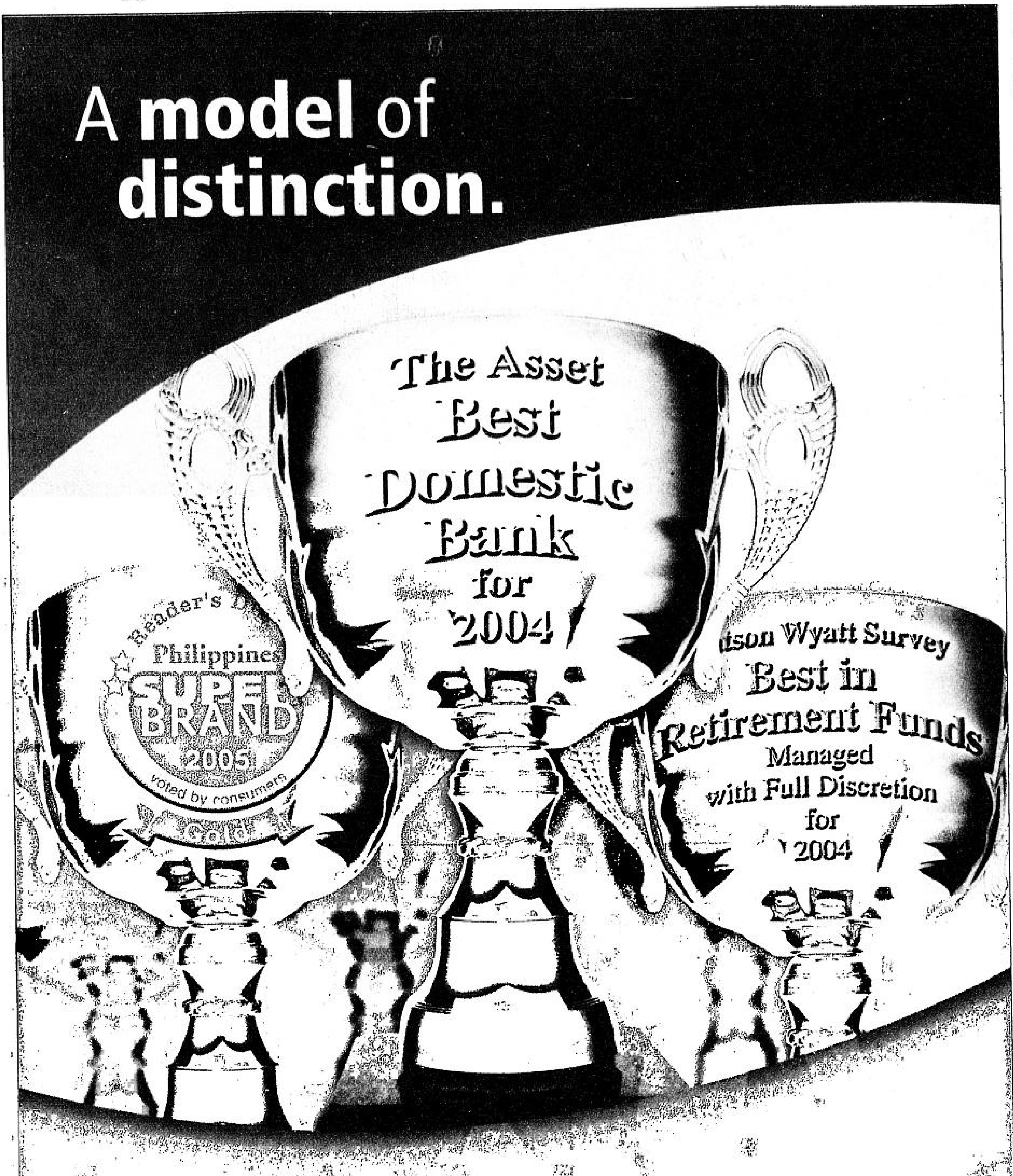
"I heard that there was somebody inside the getaway vehicle at the time (Jameiro) got a gun. We want everybody involved to be brought to justice," said the victim's brother.

He added that authorities could also look into the possibility that Jameiro had a companion in the getaway vehicle.

Police earlier learned that the suspect used a mocha-colored Toyota Hi-Lux to flee the scene. The vehicle was traced to owner Charito Angeles of Alabang, Muntinlupa City, but authorities have yet to say whether or not Angeles and Jameiro knew each other.

Santiago said his family had already been assured that the NBI would continue the investigation into the shooting.

Weeks after the incident, the Santiago family formally sought the permission of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay to have the NBI help out in the investigation, said Santiago.



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No more int'l campaigns for RP national cagers

By Musong R. Castillo

PHILIPPINE basketball was once No. 3 in the world and it was Asia's No. 1 until 1973. Now it won't be able to assert even its last claim to international fame as Southeast Asia's best.

The International Basketball Federation (Fiba) yesterday slammed the door on all international stints by Juan dela Cruz's national squad in the wake of the recent expulsion of the Basketball Association of the Philippines from the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"Very surprised and unhappy," with the POC decision and pending its own investigation, Fiba said it will continue to recognize BAP as the legitimate national federation affiliated to Fiba and responsible for basketball in the Philippines.

The RP ban starts in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) men's tournament kicking off today in Kuala Lumpur. The event is the qualifier for the Fiba-Asia men's championship slated in Doha, Qatar.

The BAP tried to save the stint of the defending champion team in the Seaba by requesting that the POC issue a special permit for the BAP-organized squad already in KL until its request for a reconsideration of its expulsion is settled.

But the POC stood its ground with president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco merely saying the Olympic body welcomes the Fiba probe on the BAP case. "The sooner this is conducted, the better for us," he said.

Robert Aventajado, the POC chair, explained that "the Fiba merely adhered to the fundamental rules in conflict management and the POC must abide by this . . ."

"The POC is saddened by this but we must swallow the bitter pill for now if we want to truly reform our basketball programs," Aventajado added.

Until the row is settled, the country won't be able to play not only in Fiba events like the world championship and the Jones Cup but also in the Olympics, Asian Games and even in the SEA Games because the Fiba supervises and conducts basketball in these competitions.

"The Fiba does not recognize your decision and thus will not transfer to the POC the responsibility of basketball in your country at this stage," said Fiba-World secretary general Patrick Baumann in a strongly worded letter to Cojuangco.

Fiba also said that it still reserves the "right to legally challenge the POC decision in front of the CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sports in Switzerland)."

COJUANGCO: We welcome the Fiba investigation. EDWIN BACASMAS

LINA: They didn't heed my appeal, and the country has suffered. VAL HANDUMON

"The Fiba will investigate in more detail the latest development," Baumann wrote. "To do so, we request in particular a precise explanation of what the POC considers as continuing 'defiance and intransigence' which led to the expulsion of the BAP."

A team backed by the BAP flew to Malaysia on Sunday to defend the Seaba crown, two days after Cojuangco wrote organizers requesting accommodation of another Philippine team backed by the local Olympic body.

By virtue of 33 votes from other National Sports Associations, the BAP was expelled from the POC despite a last-minute plea from new president Joey Lina.

Meanwhile, PBA commissioner Noli Eala said the pro league is "extremely concerned that all its efforts to regain our standing in basketball in our region might go for naught."

"While we respect the processes and decisions of the POC, we urge the POC and the BAP to immediately settle this matter with the interest of Philippine basketball as the primordial consideration," Eala said.

Lina: It shouldn't have come to this

BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines president Joey Lina yesterday said that the ban on the Philippines from participating in international competitions by the International Basketball Federation, or Fiba, wouldn't have happened had the Philippine Olympic Committee given the basketball body a chance to make amends.

"They didn't even give us time," said the former senator and Laguna governor, who attended the Fiba-Asia Executive Board in Kuala Lumpur, site of the Southeast Asia Basketball Association Men's Championships.

"I did my best. I almost went down on my knees to appeal to the POC but they didn't heed my appeal and it's the country that has suffered."

A BAP-formed team with Boysie Zamar as coach was already in Malaysia yesterday, ready for battle. But its participation in the Seaba now hangs in the balance after the Fiba handed a decision to suspend the Philippines from participating in all Fiba-sanctioned tournaments.

Lito Alvarez, BAP deputy secretary general, said the RP team will be allowed to defend its Seaba title only if it gets a temporary permit from the POC pending resolution of a motion for reconsideration filed by the BAP on its expulsion.

If the POC refuses to budge, the country only will also be barred from the Olympics, Asian Games and even the SEA Games since the international federations also supervise and conduct their respective events in those competitions.

Bata on cliff's edge; Manalo remains unscathed

REYES: In danger

KAOHSIUNG, Taiwan—Efren "Bata" Reyes was on the brink of elimination even as compatriot Marlon Manalo remained undefeated late Sunday in the 2005 World Pool Championship here.

Reyes, who won the event in 1999, took his third defeat to Tomasz Kaplan of Poland, 2-5, after earning his first win via a 5-4 squeaker over Adam Adburahim of Indonesia.

The 50-year-old Filipino pool legend must now sweep all his remaining three matches in Group 4 in order to have any chance of advancing to the knockout stage on Wednesday.

The top four players from each group will advance to the round of 64.

Reyes was scheduled to meet Roman Hybler of Romania and Tony Drago of Malta late Monday then Mike Davis of the US this afternoon.

Manalo became the lone unbeaten Filipino after claiming his fourth win in Group 15.

The 29-year-old Manalo beat David Larrson of Sweden, 5-3, and Stuart Lawler of Australia, 5-1, to lead his eight-man group.

Gandy Valle and Dennis Orcollo failed to keep up with Manalo as they took their first setbacks.

Valle blew a 4-1 edge and lost to Ceri Worts of New Zealand, 4-5, in Group 10. The former Asian Games gold medalist nonetheless stayed in good position to move on to the final 64.

Orcollo also saw his two-game winning streak come to a halt after dropping a 4-5 decision to Ismael Paez of Mexico in Group 5.

Defending champion Alex Pagulayan, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Warren Kiamco and Ronnie Alcano each split their two matches on Sunday for identical 2-2 records. *Lorenzo Manguiat, Contributor*

68th UAAP season under way Saturday; Franz eyes 100th

WILL La Salle coach Franz Pumaren pick up his 100th career win against arch rival Ateneo?

After seven years on the Archers' bench, Pumaren will seek this record when La Salle kicks off its title defense against the Ateneo Eagles a day after the 68th UAAP season opens this Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Although a victory would be doubly sweet, Pumaren said his defending champions could be the underdogs this time.

"Ateneo has a potent lineup and I think they're the tallest team right now," said Pumaren, the most dominant collegiate coach in the past decade with five titles in seven seasons.

"They have a Grand Slam coach and they're a force to reckon with," added Pumaren, who holds a 99-27 record, during a press conference yesterday at the ABS-CBN compound.

Pumaren will be facing his former San Miguel Beer coach in the PBA, multititled mentor Norman Black, who will handle the Eagles this time.

"We have a lot of history together; we won championships together," said Black, who served as Ateneo consultant for a year before taking over as head coach last March. "I have a lot of respect for La Salle, they're very talented. It's going to be a difficult game but we'll prepare the best we can."

Also tabbed as favorites are 2004 runner-up Far Eastern University under new mentor Bert Flores, and the Uni-

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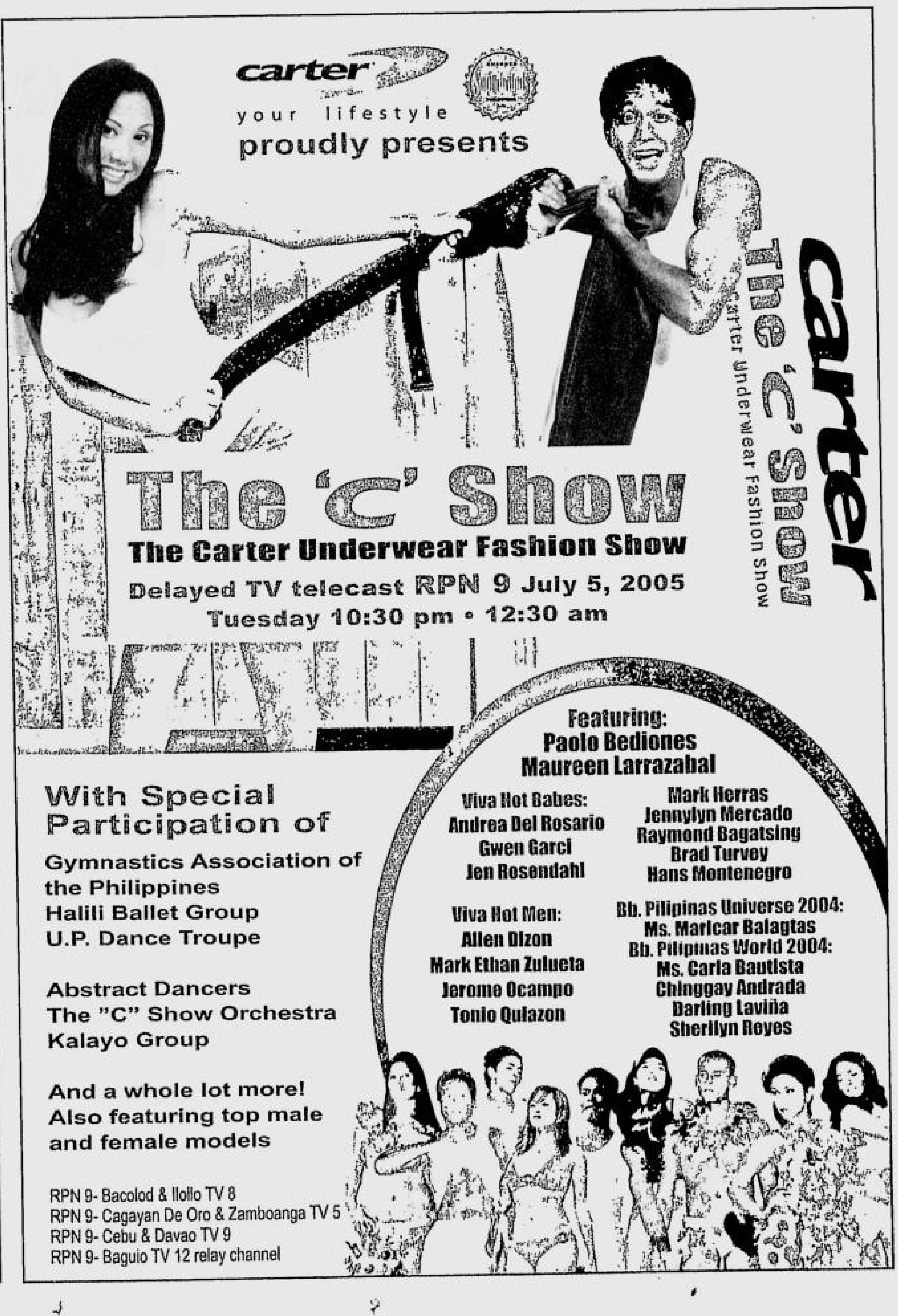

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Knights, Blazers overwhelm rivals, notch win No. 3

By Jasmine W. Payo

WITH their veterans anchoring the offense, the Letran Knights cruised to a 78-65 triumph over the San Sebastian Stags for a strong 3-0 start in the 81st NCAA basketball season yesterday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The St. Benilde Blazers also extended their winning run to three by trouncing the winless San Beda Lions, 65-55, in the other senior encounter.

Veteran Paolo Orbeta and rookie Martin Urra took the scoring load for the Blazers with a combined 27 points.

Senior forward Aaron Aban scored 13 of his 15 points while senior guard Boyet Bautista shot nine of his 13 markers in Letran's decisive surge in the second half.

JP Alcaraz, a 5-foot-11 sophomore, topscored with 21 points, 14 of them coming in the second quarter.

Coach Louie Alas, though, continued to expect more from his players and said the real test would come when the Knights face the defending champions Philippine Christian U Dolphins and the Mapua Cardinals.

The idle Dolphins and the Cardinals, who missed the Final Four last year, remain unbeaten in two games.

"This is nothing yet unless we go 5-0," he said. "But I can see the fluidity of the team."

The multititled Stags fell to 0-3, their worst record since their 0-2 start in 2000.

The Knights came out more aggressive behind Aban and Bautista in the third quarter and moved ahead at 47-41 after trailing, 31-35, at halftime.

They steadily pulled away and enjoyed a 17-point cushion, 63-56, at the 8:44 mark.

Leo Najorda, the 2003 league MVP playing his last season, hit a game-high 31 points and seven rebounds for the Stags.

In junior play, the San Beda Cubs rolled to their third straight victory after thwarting the La Salle Greenies, 60-54.

Earlier, Fil-Am rookie center Darell Green powered the Squires past the Staglets, 68-64, for their second win in three games. Green finished with 20 points, 13 rebounds and five blocks.

The Greenies dropped to 1-2, while victory remained elusive for the Staglets in three games.

The scores:

Second Game (Srs)

LETRAN 78—Alcaraz 21, Aban 15, Bautista 13, Rodriguez 7, Aldave 7, Mondragon 4, Andaya 3, Piñera 2, Quinday 2, Jazul 2, Balneg 1, Anabo 1, Realista 0, Melegrito 0, Faundo 0.

SSC 67—Najorda 31, Vicente 7, Santos 7, Aquino 5, Aguilar 4, De Leon 4, Lindaya 3, Ballesteros 3, Malig 1, Delgado 0, Tioseco 0, Quiamco 0.

Quarters: 14-12, 31-35, 55-46, 78-65

Fourth Game (Srs)

BENILDE 65—Orbeta 14, Urra 13, Sagad 11, Manding 10, Layug 9, Cabatu 6, Robles 2, Morial 0, Porras 0, Good 0.

SAN BEDA 55—Menor 13, Paterno 11, Aljamal 10, Angeles 10, Taganas 4, Tecson 3, Tirona 2, Antonio 2, Gamalinda 0, Baldivia 0, Cruz 0, Timonera 0.

Quarters: 15-17, 36-28, 46-42, 65-55

Lady Archers take V-League title opener

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LA SALLE displayed steely determination against University of Santo Tomas' late charge to prevail, 25-21, 18-25, 25-19, 27-25, yesterday in Game 1 of their Shakey's V-League women's volleyball championship playoffs at the Makati Coliseum.

Maureen Penetrante deflected Venus Bernal's smash to finally end the Tigresses' stubborn stand and seal La Salle's victory after one hour and 43 minutes of intense action between the two former champions.

La Salle can wrap it up in Game 2 on Thursday at the Rizal Coliseum.

"I hope we can end it on Thursday," said a visibly relieved La Salle coach Ramil de Jesus, whose charges got a big scare when they allowed UST to pull even after erecting a 22-18 lead in the fourth set.

Led by Roxanne Pimentel and Mary Jean Balse, the Tigresses tied the count at 22-22 as the Lady Archers gambled on using short spikers Manilla Santos and Ferina Saet up front for their scoring abilities.

"That's the risk I was willing to take," said De Jesus. "I told them to pick themselves up quickly and set up for attacks."

Santos, Michelle Carolino, Concepcion Legaspi and Desiree Hernandez were at the forefront of those offensives while the taller Tigresses relied mostly on the experience of reinforcements Pimentel, Joan Carpio and Bernal.

Penetrante topscored for La Salle with 18 points while Carolino and Hernandez both accounted for 15 markers.

Legaspi contributed 15 points, six of them on blocks, while Santos and Saet had six and five points, mostly through service winners, respectively.

Pimentel had 17 points with 13 spikes, while Bernal dished out 15 points, 14 on kills. Balse and Carpio added 12 and 11 points, respectively, for the Tigresses.

Earlier, San Sebastian College drew an inspired performance from Cherry Macatangay to down Ateneo, 27-25, 25-19, 25-21, in their own best-of-three series for third place.

Macatangay scored 21 points, 18 on attacks, for the Lady Stags who were never really threatened after surviving the Lady Eagles' tough stand in the first set.

GAMES THURSDAY
(*Rizal Coliseum*)
1 p.m.—SSC vs Ateneo (for 3rd)
3 p.m.—UST vs La Salle (Game 2)

LA SALLE'S Concepcion Legaspi (4) pierces the UST defense put up by Kate Co Yu Kang (9) and Roxanne Pimentel (8) at Makati Coliseum. RYAN LIM

Ateneo HS, Arellano shuttlers forge clash

ATENEO and Arellano secured hard-earned 2-1 victories over their respective rivals yesterday to forge a showdown for the boys' high school crown in the JVC Open Badminton Championships at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

Toby Gadi clinched the victory for the Katipunan-based shuttlers as he outplayed Xavier's Jobett Co in the deciding match, 15-3, 13-15, 15-7.

Ateneo's Raphael Sanchez held off Jovic Sy, 15-3, 15-10, in the first singles but Xavier took the doubles through Geoffrey Arollado and Michael Lim, who beat James Roman and Nicco Supangco, 15-6, 15-13.

Ateneo and Arellano dispute the crown and the top P10,000 purse starting at 4 p.m. Friday.

Earlier, top officials of JVC (Phils.), led by its president Hideyuki Takato and general manager Kazue Salud, welcomed the survivors of last week's grueling eliminations at PowerSmash.

The final week also features competitions in the elite masters as well as in the elite, juniors, veterans, corporate and celebrity categories.

Marcelo H. Del Pilar High School and Poveda took different routes but produced the same results to set up a title duel for the girls' crown in the event backed by Alaska, Gosen, Chris Sports, Rudy Project, Technomarine, Nokia, Lactacyd, Pioneer Life, Bacchus, Akari.

Malou Gaspar and Jackilyn Cudia won their singles matches against Daniela Gaspar, 11-4, 11-5, and Carla Cruz, 11-0, 11-1, respectively, while the doubles pair of Jaevena Susbilla and Chona Medina scored a 15-1, 15-0 victory over Isabel Reyes and Tricia Chua as MHDP blanked Woodrose High School, 3-0, to advance to the finals of the high school division.

Poveda joined MHDP after walkover win over Rizal HS in the other semifinal encounter.

London decides Shell's fate soon

THE SHELL Turbochargers did everything within their control and capped a remarkable season with a third-place finish in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference recently.

Now, whether the franchise stays in the pro league or not will depend on the decision of the petroleum company's London headquarters within the week.

Shell coach Leo Austria said the coaching staff and the players met with team management yesterday to find out the real score on the Turbochargers' rumored disbandment.

"The management in the Philippines doesn't want to give up the franchise," said Austria. "But there were questions that London wanted to be answered as far as the viability of maintaining a PBA franchise is concerned."

Cavite dribblers down host Ozamiz

OZAMIZ CITY—Far Eastern Insurance-backed Cavite stepped up its campaign in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship Sunday by dealing favored Ozamiz its first home loss, 85-75, at the jampacked Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym here.

PBL veteran Mervin Mamaclay sparkled for the Insurers anew, scoring 24 points, including three triples, and grabbing nine rebounds.

"Execution was the key," said Cavite coach Segundo "Bong" dela Cruz after the team of Bacoor Mayor Edwin Malvar and strong supporter Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi leveled its Northern Conference record at 4-4. "They boys played our game plan to the letter."

The Ozamiz cagers of Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog suffered their second loss in eight games in the tournament supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Cebu Pacific, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Skygo Motorcycles, Far Eastern Insurance, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam Corp., KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Ping Ping Lechon, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

The Insurers continue their southern swing today when they face the Hapee/Dewfoam-backed Mantawi Sparkling Nights at 6 p.m. at the Mandaue Sports and Cultural Center.

Tristan Codamon ably filled in the shoes of Marvin Ortiguerra, who fouled out after getting an unsportsmanlike foul together with Ozamiz's Billy Bansil for figuring in a brief scuffle late in the second half.

Cavite opened the final period with a 13-5 run and took the lead for good, 76-68, after a 63-63 tie as it held Ozamiz without a field goal up to the 5:36 mark.

The scores:

CAVITE 85—Mamaclay 24, Codamon 17, Panares 14, Rodriguez 10, Ortiguerra 9, Attunaga 9, Abadia 2, Mopera 0, Sierra 0, Aransazo 0, Aguilar 0, Sagala 0.

OZAMIZ 75—Llangco 16, Sampilo 15, Bansil 14, Aquino 7, Morante 7, Alberto 4, Cabigkis 4, Nicdao 3, Libatog 3, Butel 2, Ilanga 1, Conmigo 0, Alvarado 0, Badco 0, Delina 0.

Quarters: 21-18, 40-39, 63-63, 85-75

The baggage

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE VICTORY wasn't unexpected.

San Miguel Beer defeated Talk 'N Text on Sunday because—this you've got to believe—of Asi Taulava.

I'm not being cruel. Neither am I trying to rub it in.

But to repeat a cliché: Truth hurts.

The last one to admit it, of course, would be Talk 'N Text. But I'll say it just the same: Asi Taulava is more of a baggage than an asset for TNT in the ongoing PBA Finals.

How can one like Asi Taulava, absent for nine months, be a TNT asset, in a Finals series at that?

Even God needed six days to create the world.

Asi had been literally thrown into a man-sized brawl, not a scrimmage, and you expect him to deliver the goods?

Guts taut with inactivity, bones tweaking from a long slumber, muscles complaining of forced labor, and you expect him to play normal?

C'mon, give me a break.

Even Michael Jordan needed some time to reacquire his aerial talent after emerging from retirement in the Nineties.

Asi could be The Rock but he is no Superman.

On Sunday, he even horrendously transformed into a Supermum.

Did you not see him fall behind by not just a single step but two steps trying to stop his man, Danny Ildefonso, from scoring a home-run stab at point-blank range for the Beermen's winning shot at The Big Dome?

Even his wing-like span was awfully short as he tried to chase-grab the Beerman who was gone in a blur.

Asi, 6-foot-9, suddenly became Lilliputian against Danny I, 6-foot-5, in that graphic case of a cat-and-mouse encore.

"That was not even our play for that particular situation," said Danny I of his basket that moved San Miguel Beer to a 2-0 margin in the best-of-seven title playoffs.

The pass came from Olsen Racela, which Danny I immediately used to pounce on the slowed-by-time Asi in racing down from the left baseline for the unmolested shot.

Bottom line therefore is, Asi is disrupting, more than hastening, both the offensive and defensive rotations of TNT. *Asi-wa*, they call it in street lingo. Thus, the sooner Asi gets tossed back into the icebox, the faster TNT gets to recovering its old form.

San Miguel Beer has never had it so good.

Thanks, no thanks, to Asi.

* * *

There is a new Swiss army knife with a blade that's built to rewrite tennis history shortly. His name is Roger Federer.

A month shy of turning 24, Federer dismembered Andy Roddick on Sunday, 6-2, 7-6 (2), 6-4, for his third straight Wimbledon title.

He will shoot for a fourth straight title next year to duplicate the feat of his idol, American Pete Sampras, and a fifth in 2007 to equal the trick performed by another icon, the Swede Bjorn Borg.

The way he won on Sunday, there was no way Federer could not achieve his dream.

So picture-perfect was Federer's victory that it virtually made Roddick, 22, a mere canvass to his exhibition of technical perfection and physical grace.

What you saw on this particular Sunday wasn't tennis per se.

Federer sliced through the air like knife cutting Swiss cheese, flew and glided all at the same time that had you closed your eyes mostly during the match, you would have imagined Baryshnikov performing at Wimbledon instead of at the Bolshoi.

Roddick, called The Rocket for owning the fastest serve on the Tour, came prepared to reverse the finals defeat dealt him last year by Federer. Instead, he absorbed more dishonor than humiliation, learned that his tormentor has come back inventing more tricks to denigrate him all the more.

Even in his game—the service—Roddick got himself out-aced by Federer, 11-7.

"That's the thing," said the American. "For me, if you can't compete against the best and beat the best, then you don't deserve to win the title. I want it real bad, but he's beating me."

Who said Switzerland was known only for its Rolex?

SPORTSWATCH

Pacquiao to co-manage brod's career

NEWLY-CROWNED WBC Continental Americas super-featherweight champ Bobby Pacquiao can now look forward to bigger fights after his older and more illustrious brother Manny and Los Angeles-based Michael Koncz agreed to co-manage his career. Manny Pacquiao came to an agreement with Koncz over dinner at the American-Canadian's Orange County residence last Saturday, a day before the Filipino ring idol flew back to the Philippines. Koncz and Pacquiao also said that Bobby will not fight Australian Billy Dib on July 27 as earlier reported. "Manny and I have no knowledge pertaining to this alleged bout as we have had no discussions with nor have we been contacted by any member of Mr. Dib's camp. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Manny's lawyer Burstein on Sports Radio

TONIGHT'S edition of "Sports Chat" will feature an interview with Judd Burstein, the high-profile lawyer of Filipino boxing hero Manny Pacquiao who orchestrated the legal efforts to pin down controversial US promoter Murad Muhammad in a recent New York jury trial. In an overseas telephone interview recently, Burstein discussed Pacquiao's future legal battles and his thoughts on past actions of Filipino business manager Rod Nazario. "Sports Chat," hosted by IBC-13 newscaster Dennis Principe, is heard every Tuesday 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. over dzSR Sports Radio at 918 kHz.

150 fights on tap in Pasig Fastest Win

COCKERS and breeders from Eastern Metro Manila and Rizal province converge today at the Pasig Square Garden for the One-Cock Ulutan Fastest Win challenge which kicks off at 7 a.m. with the first of 150-plus fights on tap. Hosts Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola, who also staged the 576-entry One-Cock Ulutan at PSG last February, said the first 20 and last 10 winners will get one 14-inch color TV each as bonus, with the first 20 losers taking home an electric fan each. At stake is a cash pot of P530,000. The top 10 major prizes are P115,000 for the champion, P58,000 for the second placer, P38,000 for third, and P10,000 for fourth to 10th. Slated on Thursday at the same venue is the Daytime 5-Cock Derby. Submission of weights is tomorrow, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 646-5858, 646-5828 and 0921-5191962.

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Blue Iris 2. Color fo the Wind 3. Like Kevin 4. JJ's Friend
Race 2—1. Demolition Jack 2. Nitty Gritty 3. Yoshiwara 4. Dazzling Affair 5. Security Star
Race 3—1. Patago 2. Snow Princess 3. Millied Forever
Race 4—1. Dance Til Dawn 2. Canta :Libre 3. Raging Tsunami 4. Heart of My Soul
Race 5—1. Mr. Bonjing 2. Cuadro de Alas 3. Take Ten 4. Golden Harry
Race 6—1. All Class 2. Empire State 3. Wing Away 4. He's So Lucky 5. Big Bucks
Race 7—1. Music Quest 2. Mika's Pride 3. Valiente 4. Angel Eyes
Race 8—1. Feng Shui 2. Rho Sig 3. Dark Beat 4. Tiger Winnie 5. Yankee Clipper 6. Jigolo

68th UAAP season. . .

From page A17

versity of the East, who surprisingly entered the Final Four last season with first-year coach Dindo Pumaren.

The University of the Philippines and the University of Sto. Tomas will open the season in the 2 p.m. game, followed by the 4 p.m. match between FEU and UE.

The Ateneo-La Salle blockbuster battle will be on July 10 at 4 p.m., preceded by host Adamson's clash against National University at 2 p.m. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Furyk thwarts Tiger charge

CALEIGH Lynn Furyk, 3, runs toward her father Jim after he won the Western Open. AP

TORONTO—American Jim Furyk avoided another late collapse and held off a charging Tiger Woods to end a two-year title drought with a victory at the Western Open in Lemont, Illinois, on Sunday.

Despite a late stumble with a bogey on 17, Furyk held on to finish two shots clear of Woods, who became the first golfer to break through the $50-million barrier in career earnings.

Last week, Furyk held a three-shot lead with five holes to play at the Barclays Classic but watched it agonizingly disappear when he was overhauled by Padraig Harrington.

This time, however, he held his nerve at the Cog Hill Country Club to return a final round two-under 69 and collect his 10th career win and first since the 2003 Buick Open with a 14-under 270 total.

"Just keep plugging away," Furyk said. "It was nice to come in after last week and play as well as I did.

The early bogeys may have given him a sense of deja vu but the 2003 US Open champion recovered to play flawless golf, including three consecutive birdies at the turn, until a final bogey at the 17th.

Instead, it was world number one Woods, chasing a fourth Western Open title, who suffered an uncharacteristic collapse going one-over on his final seven holes to finish with a five-under 66.

Charging up the leaderboard from the opening tee, Woods mixed five birdies with a bogey over his first 10 holes, then upped the ante by draining a snaking 50-foot eagle putt on the 11th to join Furyk in front.

However, Woods' rally fizzled out with back-to-back bogeys on 13 and 14 to fall four shots off the pace.

"I lost my momentum on those two holes," said Woods, in his final event ahead of the British Open starting on July 14.

"I was hoping to get to seven-under and force a playoff. I was close.

"I'm not overly disappointed. You know, I was not looking good after the first day (a two-over-par 73).

"You would not have suspected that I would have been tied for the lead on the back nine after what I did the first day."

It was the second consecutive runner-up finish for Woods, who was behind New Zealand's Michael Campbell at the US Open.

Reuters

Federer strokes to greatness

LONDON—Just two years after capturing his first Grand Slam crown, Roger Federer is already being hailed as one of the greatest players ever to have picked up a tennis racket.

The Swiss world number one wrote his name into the record books on Sunday after becoming only the fourth man—following Fred Perry, Bjorn Borg and Pete Sampras—to win a hat-trick of Wimbledon titles since end of the Challenge round in 1922.

One bookmaker has already quoted odds at 9/4 for Federer to win the next three years and eclipse Borg's run of five consecutive titles and at 7/1 to outdo Sampras' haul of seven.

"He is the greatest natural talent in tennis I've ever seen," said three-time former champion John McEnroe, who was commentating on the final.

"He is the most beautiful player I've ever seen. I love to watch the guy play, he's an awesome talent."

Federer first burst on to the scene as a 19-year-old when he snapped Sampras' 31-match winning streak on grass in the fourth round at Wimbledon in 2001.

Frustratingly for Federer, he never even cracked the fourth round during his next seven visits to the four majors.

But once he conquered his nerves to capture his first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2003, critics and tennis players alike were quick to laud his talent.

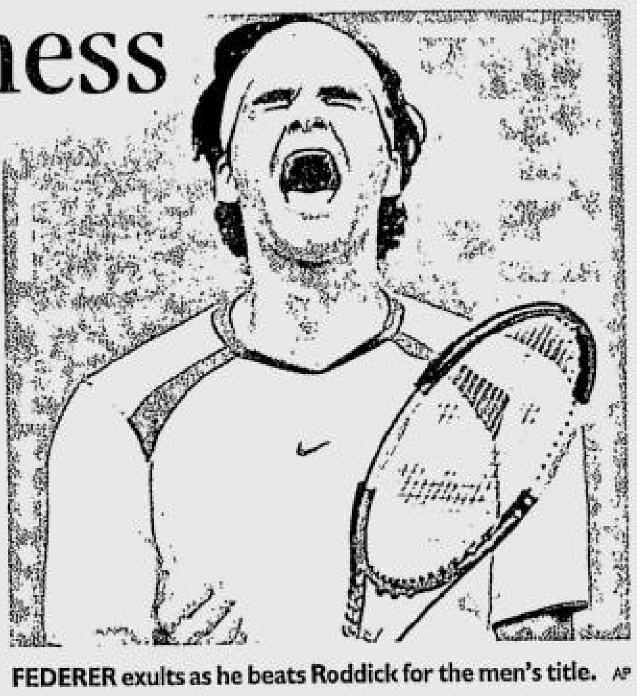
"I would be honored to even be compared with Roger," said Australian great Rod Laver, the only player to win two Grand Slams.

"He is such an unbelievable talent and is capable of anything. Roger could be the greatest tennis player of all time."

Laver's compatriot Tony Roche, who now coaches the Swiss, was equally effusive.

"Like Rod, Roger has the skills with so many options and a wonderful variation of strokeplay," said Roche.

AFP



FEDERER exults as he beats Roddick for the men's title. AP

Baena posts 1st win, bags record purse

GLADSTONE, New Jersey—Marisa Baena picked up the largest first-place prize in LPGA tour history by beating South Korea's Meena Lee in the final of the Women's Match Play Championship here on Sunday.

Colombia's Baena defeated Lee 1-up and collected $500,000 for her first LPGA Tour win.

"It's been amazing, a great week," Baena said. "I love match play and I've been waiting for this moment since I turned pro."

Seeded 60th, Baena never trailed and went 3-up after winning the 14th hole. The 47th-seeded Lee never let up, firing birdies on 15 and 16 to make it a match again.

Lee got up-and-down on the par-3 17th to extend the match. On 18, Baena needed two putts from 30 feet to win the hole. She lagged her first within inches of the cup and was conceded the victory.

Baena missed the cut at the US Open and her best finish of the season was a tie for 16th at the LPGA Championship.

She found her game this week and left a number of big-name players in her wake.

Having already had toppled fifth-seeded tour starlet Natalie Gulbis and 37th-seeded Grace Park in the first two rounds, Baena eliminated No. 21 Jennifer Rosales and No. 29 Karrie Webb on Saturday.

AFP

Tale of 2 deaths in different arenas

Boxer Sanchez

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Mexican boxer Martin Sanchez has died from serious head injuries after being knocked out by Russian Rustam Nugaev during a fight on Friday at a Las Vegas casino.

Nugaev knocked Sanchez out with a right hand just over two minutes into the ninth round of a super lightweight match at The Orleans casino and hotel, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

Doctors at a Las Vegas' hospital performed emergency brain surgery on Sanchez but were unable to save him and the 26-year-old from Mexico City died Saturday morning.

Doctors said Sanchez underwent surgery to remove a subdural hematoma and to reduce massive swelling of the brain. He was placed on a ventilator in the hospital's intensive care unit where he died.

Jockey Halliday

LONDON—Jockey Tom Halliday died after suffering injuries in a fall at Market Rasen on Sunday.

The 20-year-old, a 10lb claimer, was riding Sue Smith's Rush'N'Run when his six-year-old mount fell at the sixth fence in a Novices' Handicap Hurdle, British media reported.

He was immediately attended to by the racecourse doctor and two paramedics before being rushed to Lincoln County Hospital where he died from his injuries.

AFP

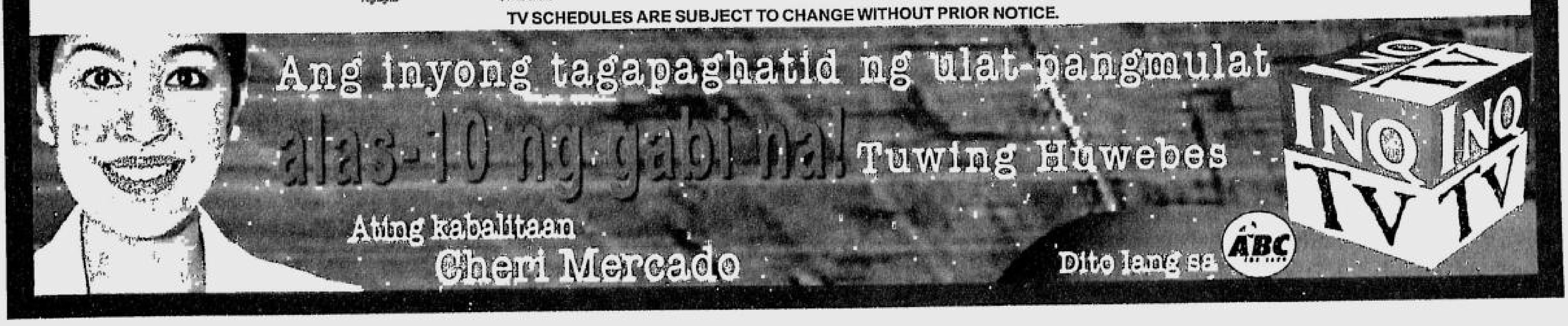
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Tuesday, July 5, 2005

FINALS NA!
TALK 'N TEXT PHONEPALS vs. SAN MIGUEL BEERMEN
Tumitindi na ang laban!
PBA
ASTIG!
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Showbiz No. 1	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	TV Patrol World		Meteor Garden Full Edition	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Oh! Feel Young	Bora			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		FIBA (Reruns)				Sentro	Lizzie Mcguire	ABC Action Movies				Big News	The Probe Team Documentaries		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	Tenjho Tenge	Shaman King	Flame Of Recca	Full House	24 Oras		Darna		Encantadia	Extra Challenge		Attic Cat	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	The Insider	Tough Enough	7 Days		Medium		Cold Case		Newswatch Now	Emancipation Mariah Carey		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Shakey's V-League				Sunstar 9-Ball Challenge			IBC News Tonite	Up Close And Personal	
JackTV	Just For Laughs	Just For Laughs	Hip Hop Nation	WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		X-Play	Banzai	Mad TV		Trigger Happy TV	Primetime Glick	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Stripperella	Family Guy	Wwe Heat	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX	MYX Firsts	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX	Star MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Top Of The Pops	Mobile MYX Top Picks	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Good Morning Miami	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	JKX	Simple Life	One Tree Hill		Who Wants To Marry My Dad 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Studio 23								Get Backers	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	The Rebel Billionaire	Angel		Smallville		News Central	Oprah		The Men's Room
AXN		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami		The World's Scariest Explosions Caught On The Tape		The Associates		Alias (Season III)		Ripley's Believe It or Not		CSI: NY (Season I)		The Amazing Race 6		AXN Shakedown	
Star World	Frasier	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Ed		Desperate Housewives	Oprah Winfrey Show	Miss Match		Friends	Ed
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
National Geographic		Air Crash Investigation		Seconds From Disaster		Interpol Investigates		Wildlife Detectives	Insects From Hell	Wow		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Air Crash Investigation		Seconds From Disaster	
Solar Sports		TV Shopping		Sudirman Cup SF '05				TV Over Time	WTA '05 Family Circle Cup Semifinals				Sports Desk	2005 Fivb World Grand Prix				NBA Inside Stuff	NBA Action
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix!	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	Second Look		Look For Less	Life & Style		Clean House		Road & Track	Back To Basics
HBO	I Love You To Death (2:40 PM)			Mask (4:15 PM)				Conspiracy Theory (6:15 PM)					Strip Search			Carnivale 10: Hot And Bothered		Carnivale 11: Day Of The Dead (10:50PM)	Carnivale 12: The Day That Was The Day
Star Movies			American Ninja 4 (3:45 PM)				A Walk in the Clouds			Sister Act (7:15 PM)				Chain Reaction				Baadasssss! (10:50PM)	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Codename Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers	Zoids Fusors	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	Time Squad	Thundercats	Codename Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers
ESPN				Tour De France 2005	2005 Kaohsiung World Pool Championship							Sportscenter Asia	2005 Kaohsiung World Pool Championship						
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Land Before Time IV: Journey Through The Mists			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Dinosaur Island	
Cinemax				The Dukes Of Hazzard Reunion!				Cops And Robbersons			New Jack City			Dark Waters			The Postman		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Regenesis		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Regenesis		Bug			Missing (10:35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye
Discovery Channel		Ramses: Wrath Of God Or Man?				Polar Bear Battlefields		Wild Weather		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		The Dangerman Adventures w/ Geoff Mackley		Science Mysteries	
MTV Philippines			Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Get Spotted		TRL		Ask: Mayonnaise	MTV Divas		Carmen & Dave	Room Raiders	High School Stories	I Want A Famous Face	On Board at MTV	Whatever Things	VH1 Video Collection	
Sports Plus				Barclays Classic Highlights		World's Greatest Auto Shows		Raceworld		Porsche md. 4	Tour De France	French Open Highlights				Tour De France	Celebrity Poker		

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

New players in the animation field

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Filipinos can become good producers of animated features

A FEW years ago, two neglected movie types staged a major comeback—musical films and full-length animated features. Since then, new musicals haven't strongly followed up on the success of "Chicago," but animated feature producers have come up with one hit after another, and many more full-length cartoons are in the works.

In the past, big Hollywood studios have pretty much wielded control over the production of animated features. Recently, however, smaller players have joined the race for the next animated blockbuster.

Their advantage is their ability to come up with good products at about half the cost of productions funded by major studios. This is partly explained by the new outfits' smaller staffing requirements. Leaner and meaner quite often also means better.

Cheaper technology

Another boon is the reduced cost of the technology involved. Some animators recall that a computer work station used in making a computer-generated film once cost $80,000; now, animated films can be made on a $3,000 home computer! In addition, 3-D software that once cost $20,000 can now be bought for only $2,000.

Some of the new animators are veterans who used to work for major animation studios, and have now set up shop for themselves. They make full use of the wealth of experience they've gained on projects they themselves have conceptualized, resulting in fresher stories, and characters, and a more personal feel to their productions.

We know that quite a number of the animators working for major studios are Filipinos or Fil-Americans, so we hope that some of them are also contemplating making their own animated features.

It would be great if they could link up with movie producers here, so the Filipino film industry can finally become a player on the international animation circuit.

We submit that Filipinos can become good producers of animated features, because our visual, musical and storytelling skills are quite creditable.

Major blocks

The major hindrance in this regard is local producers' unwillingness to think long-range, because it takes years to make an animated feature, and it would take even longer before a producer could start making money from his film. Most producers here simply aren't prepared to wait that long.

They also balk at the extra cost involved in producing animated features. But they should remind themselves that quite a number of the most profitable films made last year were full-length cartoons.

In addition, animated features can be reissued every few years or so, resulting in fresh profits for their producers. So, we trust that local producers get over their congenital reticence to go the full distance, link up with experienced Fil-Am animators, and finally make the Philippines a player on the global animation scene, as it deserves to be.

'One Step Beyond'

EVERY Thursday beginning July 7 at 7:30 p.m. on Discovery Channel, "One Step Beyond" profiles extremes of human experience, weird science and bizarre nature. The 10-part series features engaging people, intriguing animals and mind-blowing technology.

Each half-hour episode is composed of short segments, linked by a single theme, that profile some of the most awe-inspiring true stories that science has to tell.

Episode 1 features extreme swimmer Lynne Cox; "robot" rats equipped with brain implants, video cameras and GPS tracking systems; the most flexible person in the world; the South Australian Cave Cricket, one of the few animals that eats itself, and a man who suffers from cataplexy, a rare form of narcolepsy.

MTRCB RATING G GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED
MR. FANTASTIC
REED RICHARDS
POWERS:
- Highly malleable body which can stretch, deform, expand or compress into any shape Reed can imagine.
- Scientific Genius
INVISIBLE WOMAN
SUE STORM
POWERS:
- Ability to render both herself and otherobjects invisible
- Projects incredible durable invisible forcefields
FANTASTIC 4 FOUR
MARVEL
OPENS TOMORROW

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 833.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13
2 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13
3 (DOLBY) MONSTER IN LAW PG13
4 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS GP
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 (SDDS) WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 (DTS) WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 (GOLD DTS) BATMAN BEGINS
5 (GOLD DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 (GOLD SDDS) WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 (GOLD DOLBY) MONSTER IN LAW
8 MR. & MRS. SMITH
9 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
10 NASAAN KAMAN

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 (DOLBY) MONSTER-IN-LAW

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS
3 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 PREMONITION

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS
4 PREMONITION

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 AMITYVILL HORROR
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 (DOLBY) MR. & MRS. SMITH

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 AMITYVILL HORROR
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 (DOLBY) MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 HOTEL RWANDA
4 BATMAN BEGINS

Universal (Manila) tel: 7334043 or 2470
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 LIBERATED - 2

METROPOLIS star www.clickthecity.com.ph (ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 LIBERATED - 2
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) MR. AND MRS. SMITH
2 RESERVED

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341924
1 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS
3 (DOLBY) MADAGASCAR
4 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) SOON TO OPEN
2 SOON TO OPEN
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN
5 SOON TO OPEN

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 RESERVED
4 HUBAD NA MULTO

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 BATMAN BEGINS

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 (DTS EX) UNLEASHED
4 AMITYVILL HORROR

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 AMITYVILL HORROR
3 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 (DTS) UNLEASHED

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 AMITYVILL HORROR
3 (DOLBY) A LOTE LIKE LOVE
4 (DTS) MR. & MRS. SMITH

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 NASAAN KAMAN

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) THE SIN
2 SUKDULAN
3 MOTEL
4 (DTS) PREMONITION

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 (DTS) PREMONITION
4 SUKDULAN
5 BATMAN BEGINS

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 AMITYVILL HORROR
3 PREMONITION
4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call: 687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS 11:00, 1:40, 4:20 7:00, 9:30 PG-13
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS 11:40, 2:20, 5:00 7:40, 10:20 PG-13
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:20, 3:00, 5:40 8:20, 11:00 PG-13
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW 12:20, 2:55, 5:30 8:05, 10:40 PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
MONSTER IN LAW PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:20
WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 1:50,4:20,6.50,9:20
WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 12:30,3:00.5:30,8:00.10:30
WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 11:55,2:25,4:55,7:25,9:55
WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 1:15,3:45,6:15,8:45
BATMAN BEGINS GP 12:00,2:50

Araneta Center Leisure Guide

Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
Featuring The Country's First & Only La-Z-Boy Theater

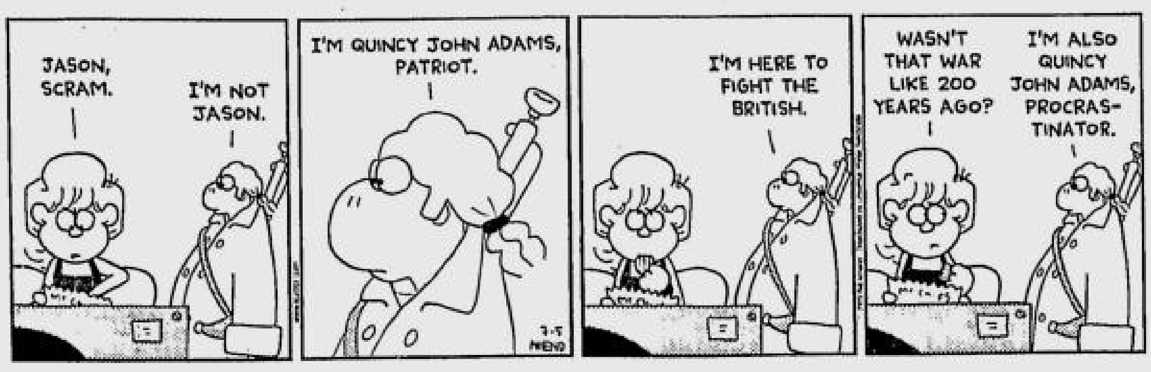
CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway CINEPLEX 10 LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 WAR OF THE WORLDS & BATMAN BEGINS
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555
MR & MRS SMITH 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
MONSTER IN LAW 1:10 / 3:50 / 6:30 / 9:10
WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:15 / 1:40 / 2:20 / 2:35 3:10 / 4:20 / 5:00 / 5:30 6:05 / 7:00 / 7:40 / 8:25 9:00 / 9:40 / 10:20 / 10:45
BATMAN BEGINS 1:00 / 3:50 / 6:40 / 9:30
NASAAN KA MAN 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
ADMISSION : P 299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
WAR OF THE WORLDS 1:25 / 4:20 / 7:15 / 10:10

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① HAPPILY EVER AFTER 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
② WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40
③ BATMAN BEGINS 11:40 / 2:30 / 5:20 / 8:10
④ NASAAN KA MAN 12:00 / 2:05 / 4:10 / 6:15 / 8:20
⑤ MR & MRS SMITH 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

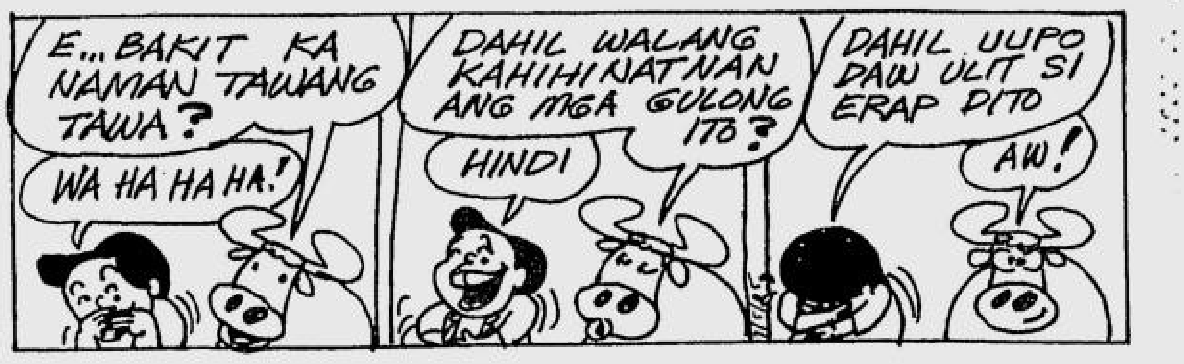
ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
July 6, Wednesday 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE FINALS: GAME 3 7:30pm Talk N Text vs San Miguel
UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES - GAMES July 9, Sat 1pm Opening / 2pm UP vs UST Srs/ 4pm FEU vs UE Srs
July 8, Fri 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE FINALS: GAME 4 4:45pm Annual Awards / 7:30pm Talk N Text vs San Miguel
July 10, Sunday UAAP GAMES 10am AdU vs NU Jrs, 12pm DLSU vs ADMU Jrs. 2pm AdU vs NU Srs. 4pm DLSU vs ADMU Srs

CENTER EVENTS
SALE
Mango Sale with up to 50% off on selected items ongoing until July 8 at the Upper Ground Floor of Gateway Mall
Celine Sale with up to 50% off on selected items ongoing until July 31 at Level 2 of Gateway Mall
NEW STORES
KFC at The Food Express on Level 3 of Gateway Mall
Menage Salon on Level 3 of Gateway Mall
LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

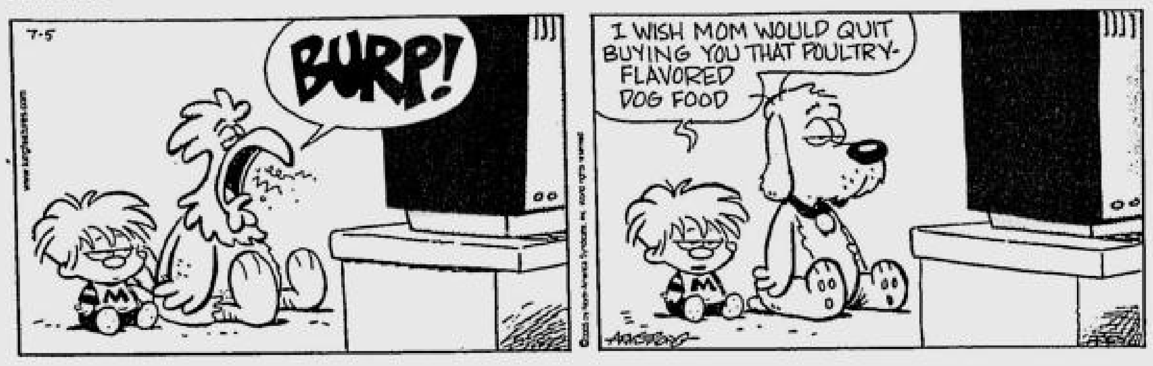
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


JASON, SCRAM.
I'M NOT JASON.
I'M QUINCY JOHN ADAMS, PATRIOT.
I'M HERE TO FIGHT THE BRITISH.
WASN'T THAT WAR LIKE 200 YEARS AGO?
I'M ALSO QUINCY JOHN ADAMS, PROCRASTINATOR.
7-5 AMEND

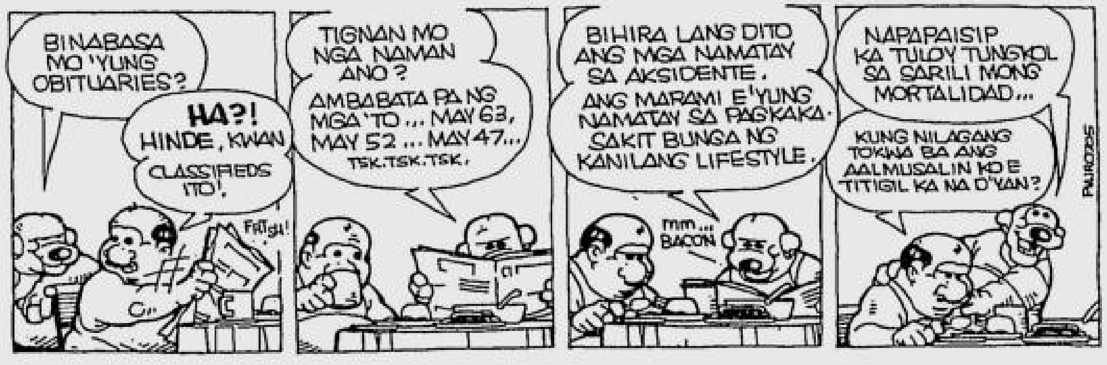
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


E... BAKIT KA NAMAN TAWANG TAWA?
WA HA HA HA!
DAHIL WALANG KAHIHINATNAN ANG MGA GULONG ITO?
HINDI
DAHIL UUPO DAW ULIT SI ERAP DITO
AW!

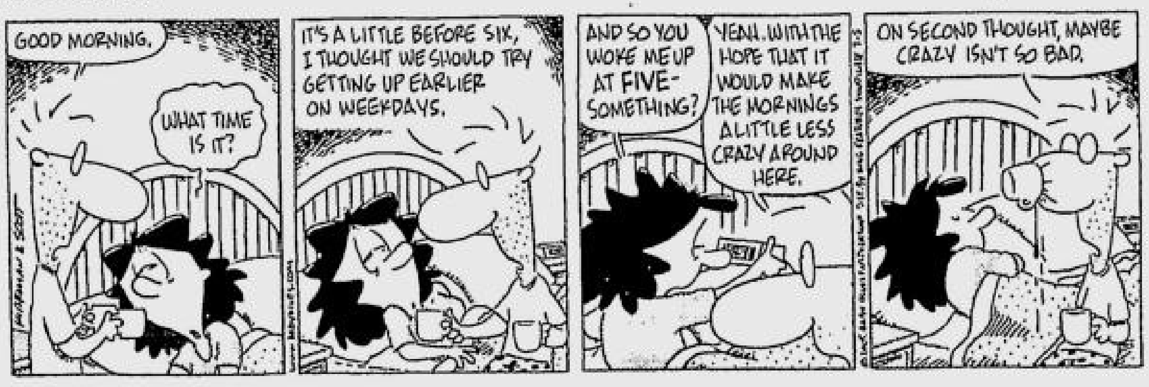
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


7-5
BURP!
I WISH MOM WOULD QUIT BUYING YOU THAT POULTRY-FLAVORED DOG FOOD

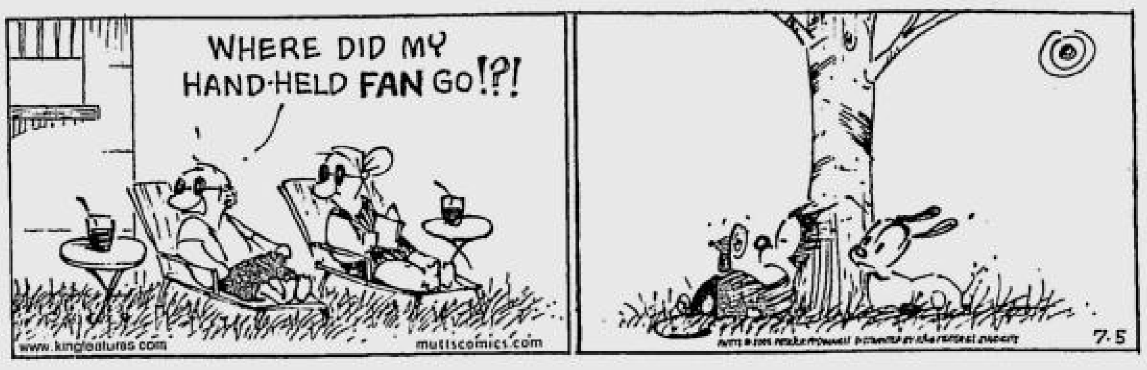
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


BINABASA MO 'YUNG OBITUARIES?
HA?! HINDE, KWAN
CLASSIFIEDS ITO!
FITSU!
TIGNAN MO NGA NAMAN ANO?
AMBABATA PA NG MGA 'TO ... MAY 63, MAY 52 ... MAY 47...
TSK.TSK.TSK.
BIHIRA LANG DITO ANG MGA NAMATAY SA AKSIDENTE.
ANG MARAMI E'YUNG NAMATAY SA PAGKAKASAKIT BUNGA NG KANILANG LIFESTYLE.
mm... BACON
NAPAPAISIP KA TULOY TUNGKOL SA SARILI MONG MORTALIDAD...
KUNG NILAGANG TOKWA BA ANG AALMUSALIN KO E TITIGIL KA NA D'YAN?
PMJR

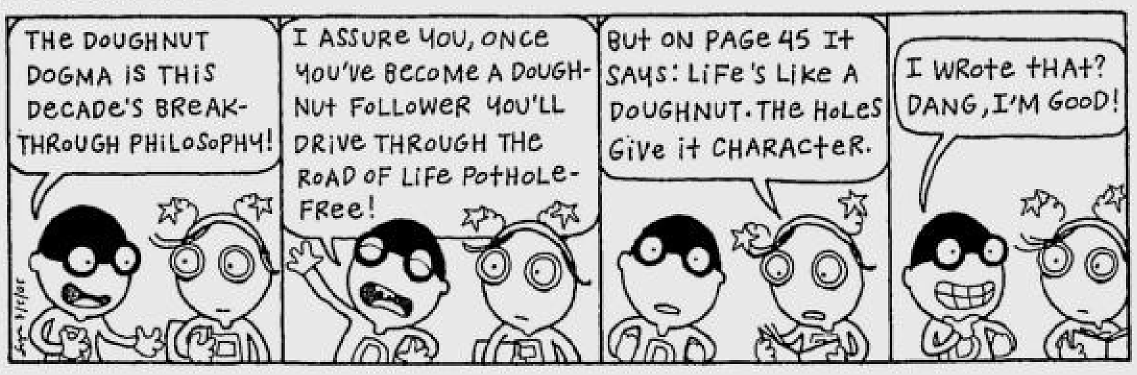
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


GOOD MORNING.
WHAT TIME IS IT?
IT'S A LITTLE BEFORE SIX. I THOUGHT WE SHOULD TRY GETTING UP EARLIER ON WEEKDAYS.
AND SO YOU WOKE ME UP AT FIVE-SOMETHING?
YEAH. WITH THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD MAKE THE MORNINGS A LITTLE LESS CRAZY AROUND HERE.
ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE CRAZY ISN'T SO BAD.

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

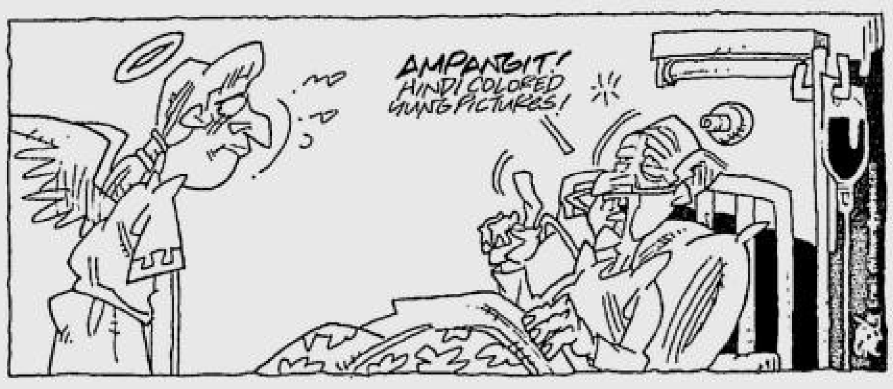

WHERE DID MY HAND-HELD FAN GO!?!
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
7-5

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THE DOUGHNUT DOGMA IS THIS DECADE'S BREAKTHROUGH PHILOSOPHY!
I ASSURE YOU, ONCE YOU'VE BECOME A DOUGHNUT FOLLOWER YOU'LL DRIVE THROUGH THE ROAD OF LIFE POTHOLE-FREE!
BUT ON PAGE 45 IT SAYS: LIFE'S LIKE A DOUGHNUT. THE HOLES GIVE IT CHARACTER.
I WROTE THAT? DANG, I'M GOOD!

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

WHEN HIS LIFE FLASHED BEFORE HIS EYES, LOLO DIOKNO HAD ONLY ONE THING TO SAY


AMPANGIT! HINDI COLORED YUNG PICTURES!

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a sharp intellect. You're nurturing and charming; nevertheless, your closest friends might not know how important they are to you. You are a natural counselor, and children respond well to you. The year ahead is full of many choices. A new path is possible for you. Be open to many options.
Birthdate of: Katherine Helmond, actress; Robbie Robertson, musician; Kathryn Erbe, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a great day for you. It's playful, flirtatious and fun-loving! Decide right now to enjoy yourself today. Be kind and friendly to everyone, especially children.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have excellent ideas about how to improve things where you live. Discussions with family members are upbeat and positive today. By all means, entertain at home.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel optimistic today. You see the power of positive thinking. Your ruler, Mercury, is on excellent terms with lucky Jupiter, and this is why you feel like a winner! (It's in the stars.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is an excellent day for business and commerce. It's also a very good day to earn or spend money; real estate deals, in particular, will go very well. Don't hesitate to shop for home items.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a winner of a day! And tomorrow looks just as good! You feel very positive about your future. Good! After all, you're going to have to spend the rest of your life there!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You feel spiritually inclined today. You have no trouble feeling soft and gentle with yourself and others. That's because you're in touch with your own basic goodness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a wonderful day to schmooze with friends. Accept all invitations, and extend a few yourself. Conferences, meetings and all group dynamics are successful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is the day to talk to the boss. Because you feel positive and confident, whatever you say will sound intelligent and articulate. (Plus, a good thing always sells itself.)

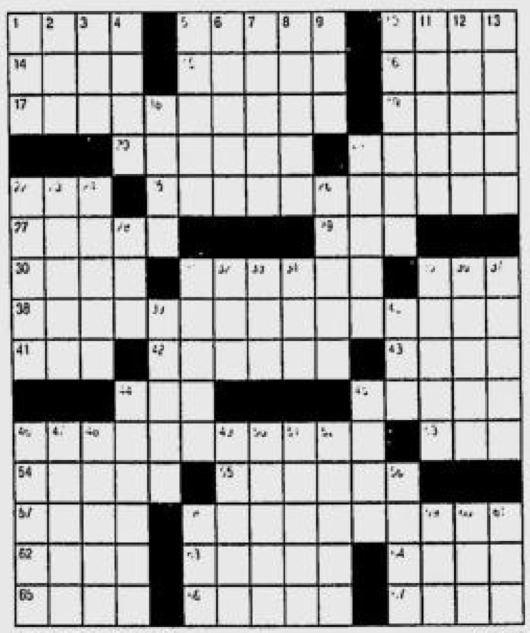
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Travel plans bring a smile to your lips. Educational opportunities look wonderful as well. Ditto for publishing. You're not afraid to think big!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good day to decide how to divide something you share with someone. All parties concerned will be fair and generous. You see what needs to be done.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a warm, loving day to enjoy the company of others. Discussions with partners or close friends are particularly upbeat and happy.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Act on your big ideas at work. You know what you want, so go after it! Cooperation with co-workers is easy to get today.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By John Underwood
New York, NY
7/5/05

ACROSS
1 Overcharge
5 Waldorf, e.g.
10 Pravda's news agcy.
14 Off-Broadway award
15 Hersey's bell town
16 Corp. honcho
17 Roald Dahl's chocolate lover
19 "Six Feet Under" co-star Taylor
20 Stormy seabird
21 Replay option
22 Soviet CIA counterpart
25 Diana Prince's persona
27 Approaches
29 German's one
30 Not taken in by
31 Columbus man
35 Whirlpool tub
38 Walter Lantz's bird
41 Bobbsey twin
42 Takes place subsequently
43 Misleading device
44 NNW's opposite
45 One dot over another
46 "The Wizard of Oz" role
53 D-Day craft
54 Cinders
55 Olds models
57 Killed deliberately
58 Moby Dick, for one
62 French father
63 Wild hogs
64 Internet auction site
65 Agitate
66 Closing measures
67 Venetian magistrate

DOWN
1 Sty denizen
2 Geisha's sash
3 Not feel well
4 Iodine source
5 Took care of
6 Decorate
7 Like a highway
8 Twistable joint
9 Morgue letters
10 Betray
11 Truism
12 Diamond of "Night Court"
13 Heir, perhaps
18 Trees for bows
21 Sty denizens
22 Part of a.k.a.
23 Salami type
24 __ Rouge, LA
26 Harvests
28 Five and a half yards
31 Held title to
32 Santa chuckles
33 Debt letters
34 "__ to Joy"
35 Jolly Roger feature
36 Mexican money
37 Looks __ everything
39 Sycophant's replies
40 __-Magnon
44 Barbecue spit
45 _ mein
46 Stingers
47 Small landmass
48 Oteri of "SNL"
49 Large mackerel
50 Tale of Achilles
51 Neon fish
52 Pungent salad ingredient
56 Cast off
58 Pugilists' org.
59 Blood class. sys
60 Delay
61 Needle hole

Monday's Puzzle Solved

B	E	F	O	R	E	■	H	A	D	■	V	A	M	P
O	V	U	L	A	R	■	O	L	E	■	A	B	E	L
P	A	R	A	T	R	O	O	P	S	■	C	U	T	E
■	■	■	F	R	A	N	K	S	I	N	A	T	R	A
A	S	P	■	A	N	T	■	■	■	I	N	S	E	T
D	I	R	E	C	T	O	B	J	E	C	T	■	■	■
U	N	I	T	E	■	■	A	O	N	E	■	R	S	T
L	A	M	A	■	B	O	M	B	S	■	H	O	P	E
T	I	E	■	B	U	L	B	■	■	H	E	L	I	X
■	■	■	C	A	N	D	I	D	C	A	M	E	R	A
M	O	D	E	L	■	■	■	R	O	N	■	X	F	S
O	P	E	N	M	A	R	R	I	A	G	E	■	■	■
L	I	L	T	■	R	H	A	P	S	O	D	I	Z	E
A	N	T	E	■	M	E	N	■	T	U	N	N	E	L
R	E	A	R	■	Y	A	K	■	S	T	A	K	E	D

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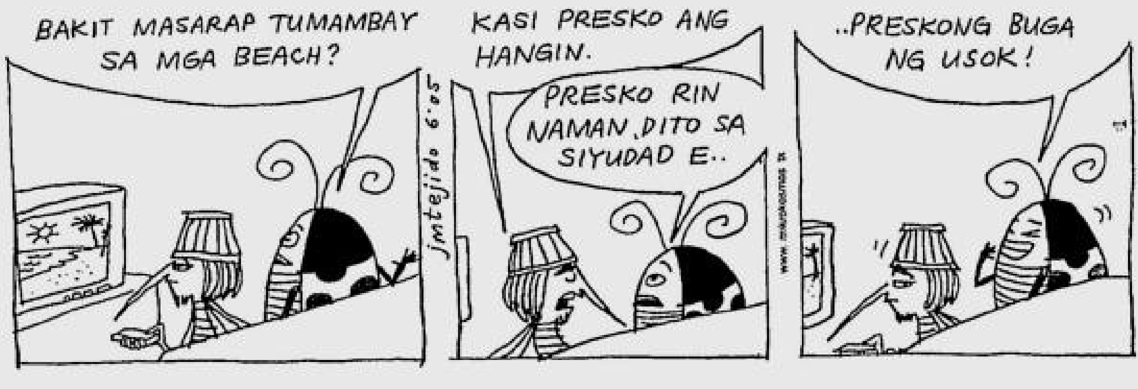
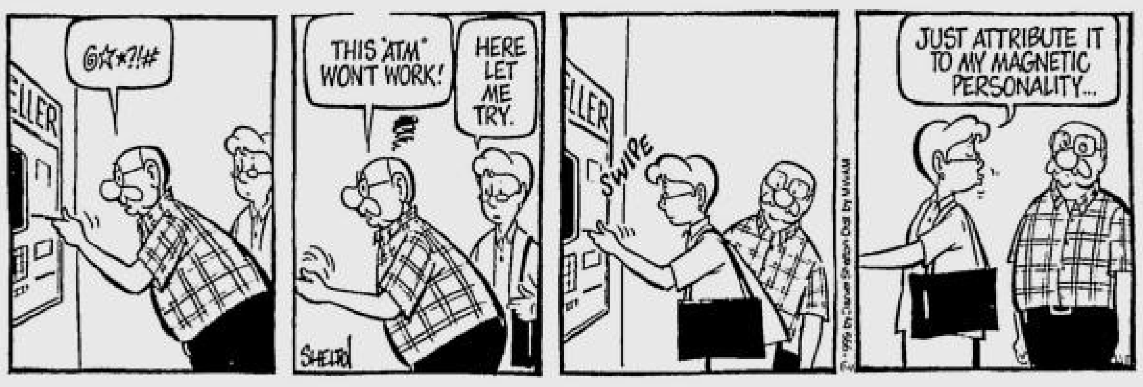
7/5/05

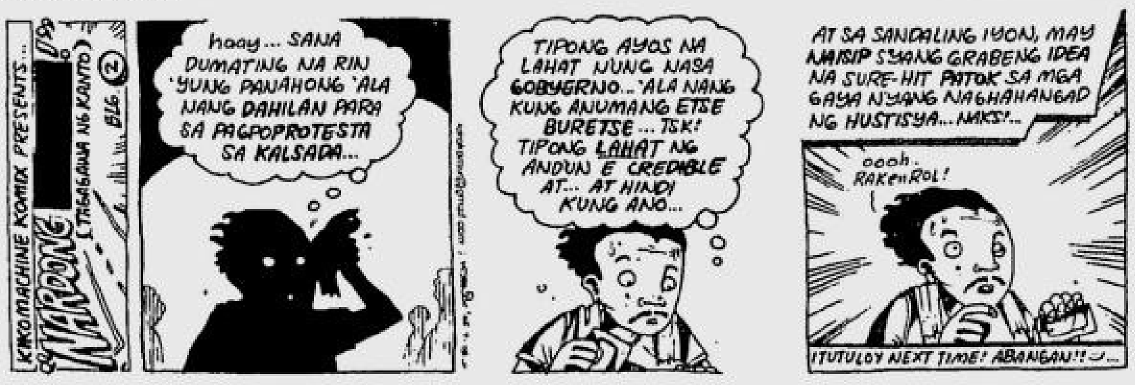
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BAKIT MASARAP TUMAMBAY SA MGA BEACH?
KASI PRESKO ANG HANGIN.
PRESKO RIN NAMAN, DITO SA SIYUDAD E..
..PRESKONG BUGA NG USOK!
jmtejido 6-05

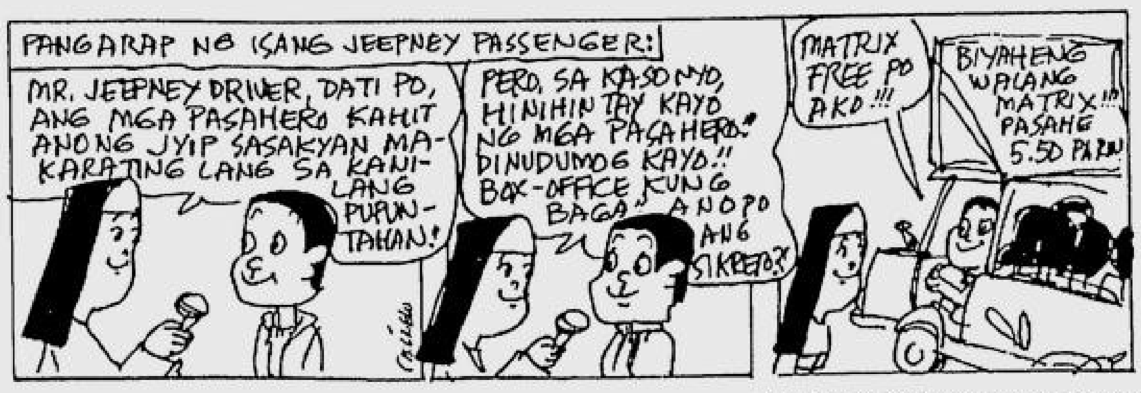
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


G☆*?!#
THIS "ATM" WON'T WORK!
HERE LET ME TRY.
SWIPE
JUST ATTRIBUTE IT TO MY MAGNETIC PERSONALITY...

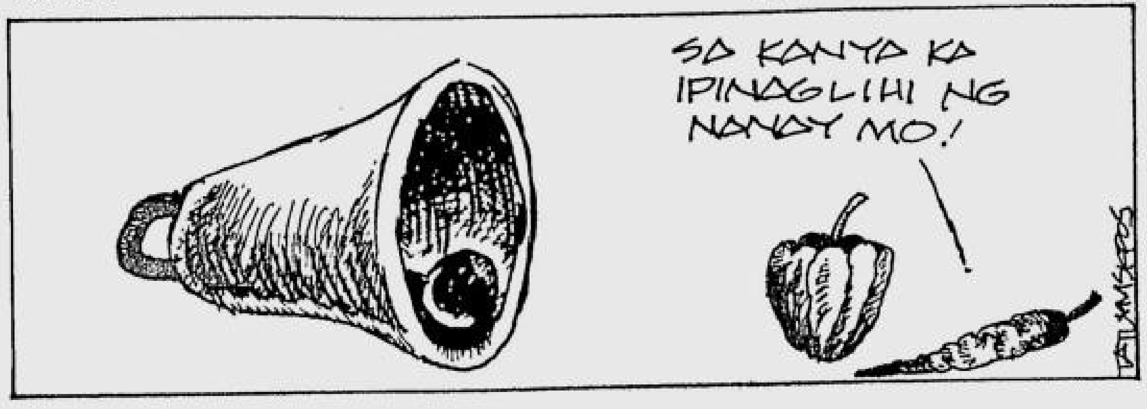
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINE KOMIX PRESENTS...
NAPOOONG (TAGABANTAY NG KANTO)
BLG. 2
haay... SANA DUMATING NA RIN 'YUNG PANAHONG 'ALA NANG DAHILAN PARA SA PAGPOPROTESTA SA KALSADA...
TIPONG AYOS NA LAHAT NUNG NASA GOBYERNO... 'ALA NANG KUNG ANUMANG ETSE BURETSE... TSK! TIPONG LAHAT NG ANDUN E CREDIBLE AT... AT HINDI KUNG ANO...
AT SA SANDALING IYON, MAY NAISIP SYANG GRABENG IDEA NA SURE-HIT PATOK SA MGA GAYA NYANG NAGHAHANGAD NG HUSTISYA... NAKS!...
oooh. RAKENROL!
ITUTULOY NEXT TIME! ABANGAN!!

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PANGARAP NG ISANG JEEPNEY PASSENGER:
MR. JEEPNEY DRIVER, DATI PO, ANG MGA PASAHERO KAHIT ANONG JYIP SASAKYAN MAKARATING LANG SA KANILANG PUPUNTAHAN!
PERO, SA KASO NYO, HINIHINTAY KAYO NG MGA PASAHERO! DINUDUMOG KAYO!! BOX-OFFICE KUNG BAGA! ANO PO ANG SIKRETO?
MATRIX FREE PO AKO!!!
BIYAHENG WALANG MATRIX!! PASAHE 5.50 PA RIN

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SA KANYA KA IPINAGLIHI NG NANAY MO!

AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN

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At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
BLISS Interior for the Wedded Exhibit June 30, 2005	Anson's Exhibit June 30, 2005	Eden Dy Bazaar until June 30, 2005

AYALA GREENBELT

Mega Magazine's
Ten Most Beautiful Women Photo Exhibit
June 24-30, 2005

GREENBELT 1 Onstage AYALA CENTER

"DON'T THINK" - A multi-media performance
by Marge Enriquez (By Invitational Only)
Directed by Bart Guingona & Choreographed by Douglas Nierras
July 28,2005

Ayala MUSEUM

Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at
Ayala Museum.
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS GB4 to 2333 (Globe) or 21 (Smart)
or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 BATMAN BEGINS	2 WAR OF THE WORLDS	3 HAPPILY EVER AFTER	4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 BATMAN BEGINS	2 MR. & MRS. SMITH	3 THX WAR OF THE WORLDS GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY	5 HAPPILY EVER AFTER	6 WAR OF THE WORLDS	7 MONSTER-IN-LAW
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 BATMAN BEGINS 12:30, 3:20, 6:10,9:00	2 WAR OF THE WORLDS 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6.30, 9:00		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX WAR OF THE WORLDS 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 10:00 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 MR. & MRS. SMITH 1 30, 4 00, 6 30, 9 00 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 BATMAN BEGINS 2 15, 5 05, 7 55 10 45 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MONSTER-IN-LAW 2 15, 4 30, 6 45, 9 00 11 15 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX WAR OF THE WORLDS	2 WAR OF THE WORLDS		
	3 MONSTER-IN-LAW	4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER	5 BATMAN BEGINS	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 WAR OF THE WORLDS	2 BATMAN BEGINS	3 HOUSE OF WAX	4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

4 REASONS TO WATCH FANTASTIC 4 AT THE THX CERTIFIED AYALA CINEMAS

- *HIGH PICTURE QUALITY to accurately & clearly witness the mind-blowing movie action sequences*
- *AMAZING ACOUSTICS to hear all the fantastic sound effects so that every seat is the "best in the house"*
- *BEST EQUIPMENT to give precise & realistic movie-going experience*
- *INCREDIBLE CUSTOMER SERVICE to complete the ultimate cinematic experience*

Watch FANTASTIC 4 at the THX Certified Ayala Cinemas in Alabang Town Center, Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt 3 on July 6.

THX

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AYALA CINEMAS. The biggest THX operator in the country

PREPARE FOR THE FANTASTIC
FANTASTIC 4 FOUR

Customer Service text hotline:	0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline:	Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center -	842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu -	(032) 231 5342 loc 324

All-Digital Cinemas

MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7315

Free Seating Cinemas: P70.00

① Mr. & Mrs. Smith
② Happily Ever After
③ War of the Worlds
④ Nasaan Ka Man

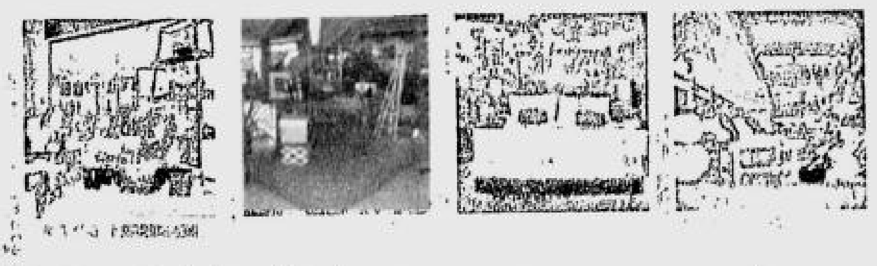
Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00

⑤ Batman Begins
⑥ Monster-in-Law
⑦ War of the Worlds

EVENTS! EVENTS!

MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds
presents
Celebrity Homes!
Great Home
Finds for Less!

MADE IN THE PHILIPPINES



The Home Finds of Angel Jacob,
Christine Bersola-Babao,
Ces Drilon and Rico Blanco

With the special participation of Ana Rocha-Castillo

June 15-July 15, 2005
Home Market, 3rd Level

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS • THX
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30

3 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 BATMAN BEGINS
1:00 4:00 7:00 10.00

6 WAR OF THE WORLDS
1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

7 HOTEL RWANDA
1:25 4:10 6:55 9:40

8 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

9 NASAAN KA MAN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20

2 NASAAN KA MAN
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

6 BATMAN BEGINS
12:00 3:15 6:30 9:45

7 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 HOTEL RWANDA
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
12:00 2.25 4:45 7:15 9:30

3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
1:25 4:00 6:35 9:10

4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00

5 BATMAN BEGINS
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

6 NASAAN KA MAN
12.05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00

7 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

8 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
2 SHUTTER
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 BATMAN BEGINS

PIONEER 687-5378

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
4 BATMAN BEGINS

In 1936 Shanghai, the whole world ran on power, money and sex...
Shanghai Lily
the secret...
the deception...
the desire...

The most controversial erotic thriller of the year...

exclusively at

Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA

starting
July 06

MTRCB Rating: R-18
Strictly for adults only
due to its graphic sexual content!

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635-5555 or visit us:
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
4 BATMAN BEGINS

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 UNLEASHED

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
4 BATMAN BEGINS

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 SHUTTER
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 WAR OF THE WORLDS

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0458

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 SHUTTER
4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 IN GOOD COMPANY

ILOILO (033) 336-8078

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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Pia Cayetano seeks justice for Luigi

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

ALLOW me to give way to the appeal for justice of *muy graciosa* Sen. **Pia Cayetano.** She is taking up the cudgels for the family of director **Luigi Santiago**, who was shot during a brawl at a popular Makati nightspot. Not too many people know that whenever I miss my mom and Pia misses her dad we turn to each other for comfort. Atty. **Rene Cayetano** was my mom's lawyer. Although we remain inconsolable in our grief, it's reassuring that we understand each other's pain. We draw strength from our friendship that's devoid of anything political or show biz-y.

I had the chance to work with *Direk* Luigi in "Boy Abunda's Most Interesting People" TV Special. He was brimming with ideas and full of promise. How sad that he had to go so early. Pia and I, in our own little way, hope to ease the agony of those Luigi left behind.

***

Dear Dolly,

Amid all the wiretapping and *jueteng* hearing, a killing like this happens. It's terrible that it is not getting the attention it deserves. But, like I promised Luigi's parents, I will do my best to seek justice for them.

When Luigi was 4, his family moved to the United States. He studied there and graduated valedictorian. Luigi returned to the Philippines to pursue a career here. Likewise, his dad retired early and brought his family back to settle here and to support Luigi.

They are our model *balikbayan* family, *'di ba?* The least this country can give them back is justice, don't you think?

Thanks!

Pia

***

The lady senator has taken to task the Southern Police District, particularly the Makati City Police, for failing to arrest or even establish the identity of the killer.

It has been three weeks, and the police have yet to present a suspect despite many witnesses' accounts.

Pia called on the Department of Foreign Affairs and the National Bureau of Investigation to help the police.

"The continued failure of the police to arrest the suspect in spite of the circumstances reflects the ineptness of the PNP leadership in maintaining peace and order. The mere fact that the perpetrator cannot be identified is an indication that there is something terribly wrong in our system of criminal investigation." Pia said.

She added that reports of the suspect having fled the country could in fact be true. "This would not have happened if he had been identified immediately."

Pia is appealing to other witnesses to come out and provide more information.

Abrera to ABS-CBN

FORMER ad agency CEO **Emily Abrera** was recently elected to the board of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. Abrera replaced **Manolo M. Lopez,** who gave up his board seat which he held for 15 years, to pave the way for an independent director from outside the Lopez family.

This was announced by ABS-CBN Chair **Eugenio Lopez III**, who said, "Ms Abrera brings to the board a point of view distilled from her wealth of experience and creativity in marketing, media and advertising."

Abrera was chairperson of McCann Erickson Philippines for five years and its president/chief executive officer for seven years prior. She occupied key positions in the Advertising Board of the Philippines and was a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award given by the Philippine Creative Guild.

Big treat on 'Kuba'

FANS fell in love with the child version of his character Lorenzo, truest friend of all to the young Imang in the first week of ABS-CBN's hit *fantaserye* "Kampanerang Kuba."

Starting this week, fans of the series will get a bigger treat as singing idol **Christian Bautista** makes his long-awaited debut as the grown-up Lorenzo, joining series star **Anne Curtis.**

Will "KK" finally answer the questions many fans have been asking: Will Christian sing as Lorenzo?

(For feedback, e-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@true-faithband.com)

SHANG CINEPLEX

① WAR OF THE WORLDS
MTRCB PG-13
12.00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

② WAR OF THE WORLDS
MTRCB PG-13
1 30, 4 00, 6.30, 9:00

③ MONSTER IN LAW
MTRCB PG-13
11:35, 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15

④ BATMAN BEGINS
MTRCB GP
1:00, 4.00, 7:00, 10.00

PREMIERE THEATRE WAR OF THE WORLDS
MTRCB PG-13 2 00, 4 30, 7 00, 9 30
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

A Blockbuster Gift for All Seasons
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the Shang
Cinema Treats - for Cinemas 1,2,3 and 4
Premiere Rewards - for the Premiere Theatre

Regular Ticket Price
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150
Premiere Theatre - P295 (includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 / 633-4736 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

OPENS JULY 13

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

GRAB YOUR HANKIES, GIVE YOURSELF A GOOD CRY!

Jennifer Love Hewitt Paul Nicholls

If Only

What if... life gives you a second chance... to love the one you lost?

INTERMEDIA

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 11:05, 1:35, 4:05, 6:35, 9:05
CINEMA 2 WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

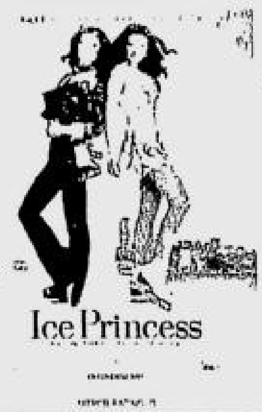
CINEMA 3 MONSTER-IN-LAW PG13 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
CINEMA 4 WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
CINEMA 5 WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM
JULY 1 & 2 RICO with the K 9PM
JULY 29 & 30 SOULSISTERS (Jessa, Marissa & Ara) 8PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

Experience SM CINEMA movietime
movie schedules events promos

Here are the results for the last week's poll!
"What movies are you into?"
TOP FIVE MOVIES
• Monster-in-law ★★★★★
• War of the Worlds ★★★★
• Herbie Fully Loaded ★★★★
• Fantastic Four ★★★
• Happily Ever After ★★★



Ice Princess

A Special Back-to-School Presentation.
An Inspiring story about following your own dreams
Ice Princess
Big things happen to those who dream big.
Watch it EXCLUSIVELY at SM Manila starting July 06
Wave 89.1
Official Radio Partner

FOR GUARANTEED SEATS

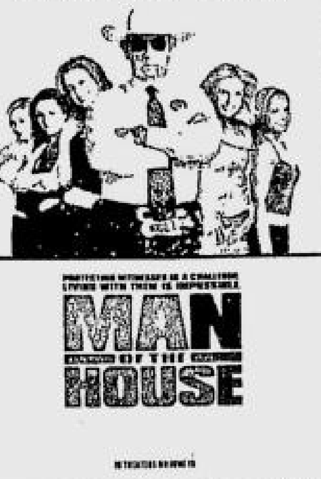
the podium 633-8976
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS 01:23FS/01:00MF/03:40/06:20 08:20LFS/09:00LMF/11:00END
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS 11:10FS/11:40MF/02:15/04:50/7:25 09:25LFS/10:00LMF/12:00END

megamall 633-1901
WAR OF THE WORLDS 10:40FS/11:10MF/01:40/04:10/06:40 08:40LFS/09:10LMF/11:10END

cebu (032) 231-3876
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH 11:40FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05 09:05LFS/09:30LFS/11:30END
2 BATMAN BEGINS 11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00 09:20LFS/09:30LMF/11:50END
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS 11:40FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END

FEEL EXCLUSIVE Now SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY at SM CINEMA

TOMMY LEE JONES



MAN OF THE HOUSE

Witness this hilarious comedy about a Texan ranger teamed up with cheerleaders!
Watch it EXCLUSIVELY at SM Southmall starting July 06
WAVE 89.1

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
8 MONSTER-IN-LAW
9 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
10 WAR OF THE WORLDS
11 NASAAN KA MAN
12 HOTEL RWANDA

sm city fairview
1 MAN OF THE HOUSE
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 HOUSE OF WAX
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
7 WAR OF THE WORLDS
8 BATMAN BEGINS
9 MONSTER-IN-LAW
10 SHUTTER
11 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
12 PREMONITION

sm north edsa
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
5 MONSTER-IN-LAW
6 WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

sm city manila
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 MONSTER-IN-LAW
6 WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 HOTEL RWANDA
8 WAR OF THE WORLDS
9 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
10 HOUSE OF WAX
11 SHUTTER
12 NASAAN KA MAN

sm city sta mesa
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 PREMONITION
7 NASAAN KA MAN
8 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
9 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
10 HOTEL RWANDA

sm city southmall
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 NASAAN KA MAN
6 SHUTTER
7 MR. & MRS. SMITH
8 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
9 MADAGASCAR
10 ICE PRINCESS

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

sm city bicutan
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 NASAAN KA MAN
6 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

sm city bacoor
1 PREMONITION
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
7 MONSTER-IN-LAW
8 MR. & MRS. SMITH

sm city dasmariñas
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

sm city baguio
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

sm city marilao
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

sm city lucena
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city batangas
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 NASAAN KA MAN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 HOUSE OF WAX
5 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
6 PREMONITION
7 NASAAN KA MAN
8 WAR OF THE WORLDS

sm city iloilo
1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 RESERVED
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 A LOT LIKE LOVE
6 BATMAN BEGINS
7 RESERVED
8 HOUSE OF WAX

sm city davao
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 PREMONITION
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 BATMAN BEGINS
6 WAR OF THE WORLDS

sm city cagayan de oro
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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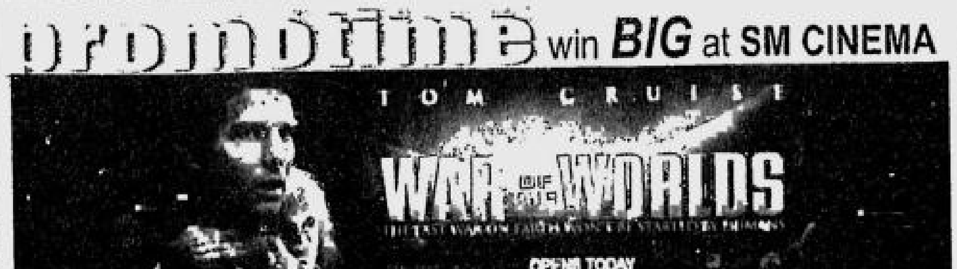

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Pia Cayetano seeks justice for Luigi DOLLYWOOD /A27

Shields takes on Cruise

NEW YORK—Brooke Shields took aim at Tom Cruise's diatribe against antidepressants on a morning talk show, saying the drugs helped her survive feelings of hopelessness after the birth of her first child.

"I'm going to take a wild guess and say that Mr. Cruise has never suffered from postpartum depression," she wrote in an op-ed piece published in The New York Times.

Cruise had criticized the actress for taking the drugs, and became particularly passionate about the issue in an interview on "Today" last week.

"You don't know the history of psychiatry. I do," Cruise told Matt Lauer.

Disservice

He went on to say there was no such thing as chemical imbalances that need to be corrected with drugs, and that depression could be treated with exercise and vitamins. Shields called those remarks "a disservice to mothers everywhere."

Shields said she considered swallowing a bottle of pills or jumping out the window at the lowest point of her depression following the birth of her daughter, Rowan Francis, in 2003. A doctor later attributed her feelings to a plunge in her estrogen and progesterone levels and prescribed the antidepressant Paxil.

"If any good can come of Mr. Cruise's ridiculous rant, let's hope that it gives much-needed attention to a serious disease," she wrote.

Shields described her post-childbirth experiences in "Down Came the Rain: My Journey Through Postpartum Depression."

Scientology

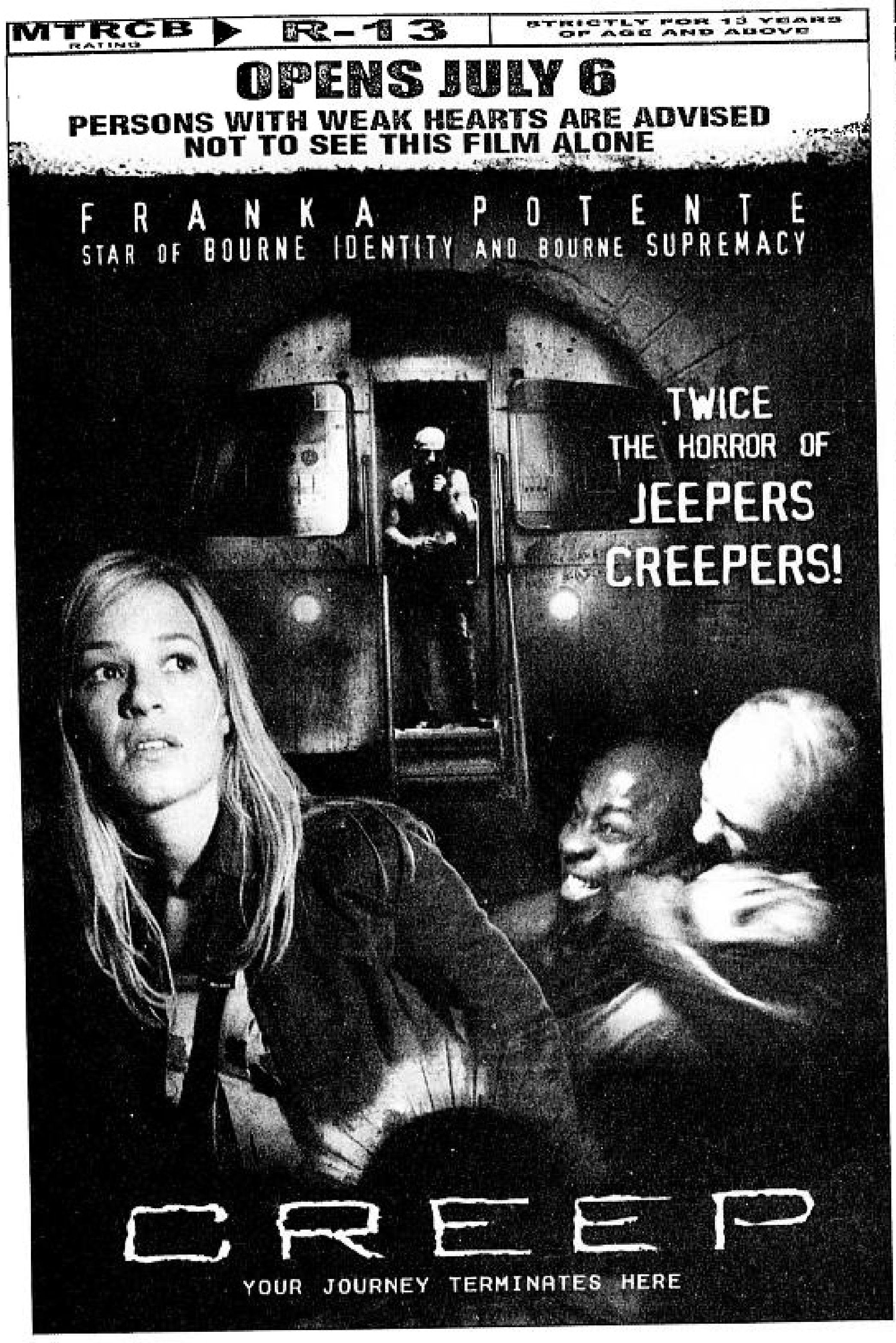
Cruise is a follower of Scientology, a religion that teaches that psychiatry is a destructive pseudo-science.

In an interview with AP Radio Wednesday night, actress Kelly Preston, who is married to actor John Travolta and also is a Scientologist, defended Cruise's "Today" show comments about Shields. "If you're going to be advocating drugs, which she does in her book, you need to be responsible for also telling the people of the potential risks."

Preston also said Cruise's heated debate with Lauer was "very helpful because it's just raised awareness. People are talking about it now, and that's what they should be."

"Whatever your political, social or religious background, this is an issue that affects all of us," she said. "It is not just a Scientology issue."

AP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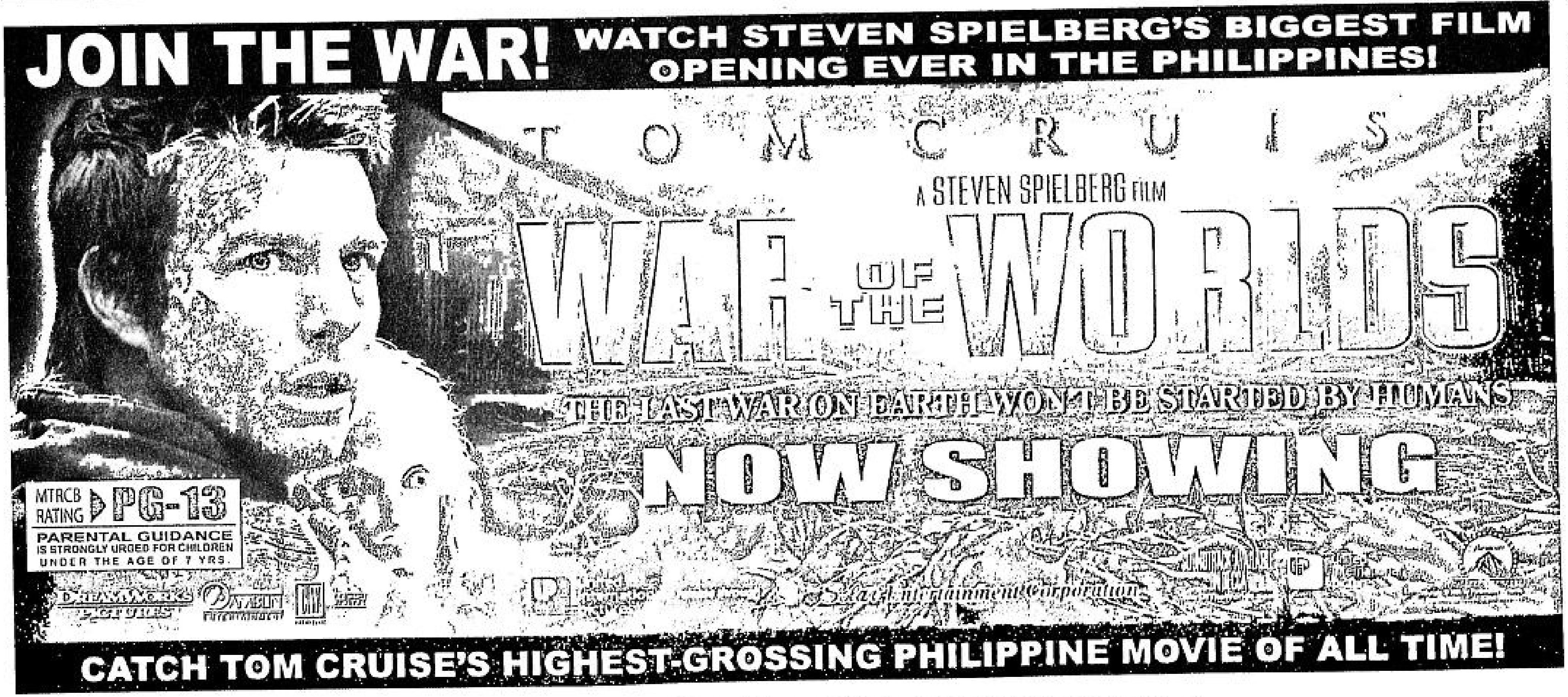
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Gov't rejects bids for T-bills

VAT freeze alarms banks

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SUSPENSION of the value-added tax law and the chaotic political environment gave banks a reason to seek much higher risk premiums on government securities yesterday, forcing the government to reject all bids for treasury bills.

Had the Bureau of Treasury accepted bids for the 91-day bills, the rate could have gone up by as much as 42.5 basis points to 6.318 percent. Yields of the 182- and the 364-day debt instruments could have risen by 58.1 points and 74.4 points to 7.512 percent and 8.595 percent, respectively. (One percentage point is equivalent to 100 basis points.)

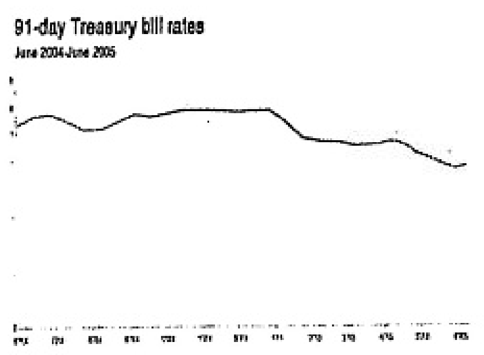
"The market is trying to digest all of these developments. For a market to be a real market, tenders should be at least twice as much (as the debt offering)," National Treasurer Omar Cruz said.

The developments he was referring to were the Supreme Court's issuance last Friday of a temporary restraining order on the VAT law and the ongoing pressures for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down amid allegations that she cheated in the elections and that her family was involved in jueteng payoffs.

"But the DOF (Department of Finance) will file a motion for reconsideration with the Supreme Court. Let's see what happens after that," Cruz said. The DOF yesterday filed the motion with the SC yesterday afternoon. *(See story on Page A1.)*

Cruz said banks showed no appetite for government securities as their bids were mostly "throwaway," thus making it reasonable for the Treasury to reject these tenders.

The 182- and the 364-day bills were both under-subscribed. Compared with the government's debt offering of P2 billion for each tenor, tenders for the six-month debt instrument reached only P1.96 billion, while those for the one-year government securities amounted to only P1.67 billion.



According to a securities trader, the low volume of bids was not an indication of low market liquidity, considering that there were P23 billion worth of retail treasury bonds that matured last week.

The lack of interest to invest in government securities was partly because of the ongoing political crisis, and largely because of the suspension of the VAT law. The high tribunal issued a TRO on the implementation of the VAT law late Friday, the first day of its effectivity, upon the petition of opposition lawmakers.

The securities trader said the market already anticipated the implementation of the VAT, which he said was a major factor creditors were convinced the government would be able to squarely address its budget problem.

He said that if the TRO were not lifted immediately, the market would have a hard time believing that the government could still push through with its fiscal reform agenda.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Solar Entertainment to bid for RPN-9 /B2

Oil firms told to declare one-day VAT collections /B8

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo witnessed the presentation of dividend check worth P1.611 billion by newly appointed Central Bank Governor Amado Tetangco Jr. (right) to Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima in ceremonies held yesterday at Malacañang's Rizal Hall. The dividend check represents 75 percent of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas audited net profit for year 2004 to be deposited to the Bureau of Treasury. REY BANIQUET/OPS

Gov't defers int'l roadshow anew

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES will defer anew its global roadshow to September, at the earliest, due to a major roadblock from the Supreme Court's order suspending the implementation of the expanded value-added tax (VAT) law.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz yesterday told reporters that the roadshow, originally scheduled in June but was put off due to a heavy bond pipeline in the United States and Europe, could not possibly be revived this month as originally planned.

"You know how difficult it would be to explain this to investors," he said, noting that the prices of Philippine government-issued bonds had dropped by 4 percent in New York alone after the suspension was announced Friday night.

"There was panic," he said.

The government had wanted to revive its delayed global roadshow this month to capture investor interest ahead of the seasonal summer lull in western markets.

In June, the Philippine economic team was set to meet with investors from Frankfurt, Geneva, Zurich, Boston and New York. UBS AG was tapped to be the lead coordinator for the European leg along with ABN Amro Bank and Deutsche Bank AG, while the US leg would be handled by Citigroup and Goldman Sachs.

The government still needs to raise about $850 million from the international markets for the rest of the year.

"At the moment, it does not affect our foreign borrowing program because we had borrowed ahead," Cruz said, when asked about the impact of the VAT suspension and the political controversies on the government's financing needs.

GOV'T/ B2

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A time to be serious

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

I MAKE it a point never to write about politics because I do not have the right to vote, so I should not have the right to pass judgment. However, politics at present is so inextricably bound to the economy and the stock market that the only alternative is to take a time out. I do not believe readers would want me to do this, so I will comment dispassionately as befits a foreign observer who loves this country.

The government is now in deep trouble following the Supreme Court upholding the opposition's TRO against the e-VAT. Chief Justice Davide and his associate wanted to dismiss it, but 13 other judges upheld it so the vote was an overwhelming 13 to 2.

The government will immediately file for a motion for reconsideration, but it will be very difficult to overturn such a large majority in favor. Oral arguments will begin for 10 days and a decision might be made by July 26. It may be that the Supreme Court felt that it would be unwise to throw out the TRO without examination, as that would mark them as pro-Gloria. If so, they will eventually approve the e-VAT.

But if they feel that the complaint has merit, they might decide against the government. Worse still, they may not reach a conclusion for months as what has happened to Meralco's application for a rate increase. If the decision goes against the imposition of the e-VAT, the government will probably find it impossible to pay down the debt and reduce the budget deficit.

If this should happen, the rating agencies would downgrade our sovereign debt from stable to negative. That would mean a weaker peso, as the central bank could not afford to squander its modest reserves trying to defend a doomed currency. Interest rates would rise, the stock market would crash and all imports will become much more expensive.

In the end, the price of petrol, imported goods, medicines, even rice from Vietnam or Thailand would go up by more than the VAT. Everybody would be worse off and the government would have to resort to other measures to avoid defaulting, like Argentina did. This is a lose-lose situation. In the case of Argentina, the banks closed for two and a half months during which time depositors were left stranded without money to buy food. When the banks eventually reopened, the currency was devalued by 75 percent so those depositors lost three quarters of their capital. Our situation is not yet as bad but we are heading in the same direction.

What can the government do? The lateral attrition bill has been in force for several months now and is beginning to show results. The tax collection for May was up 18 percent on the previous year, but 8 percent of this is due to inflation. The BIR has had sufficient time to evaluate all its collectors. Those who have hit their targets should remain and if they exceeded them, they should get a bonus. Those who failed are removed and demoted to traffic wardens. If the process is continuous, the amount collected must rise steadily, month by month, as tax collectors become more efficient and anxious to earn bonuses. The improvement, backed by sufficient incentives, could replace the loss of the e-VAT without adversely affecting the masses.

An additional number of investigators must be appointed to greatly extend the lifestyle checks. At present, I read that 12 people are under scrutiny but the number should be raised to 100. The most obvious targets are movie stars, doctors, lawyers, the police, the military and politicians. Failure to disclose their true assets should result in enormous fines, confiscation of property and long jail sentences.

A wealth tax should be implemented but the starting point should be high enough to exempt 98 percent of the population. In addition to paying the correct tax, the very rich should pay annually 1 percent of their wealth. This is too small to risk going to jail for, but will produce a tidy sum annually.

Next, the government should introduce estate duty, as we have in the UK, but not at the same rate. When I left England, estates of P100 million were first subjected to capital gains tax on shares, property, land, works of art, etc. Then the balance was taxed at 80 percent. The result was a mass exodus of all our movie stars, doctors, writers, etc.

The rate should be a more reasonable 10-20 percent on the death of the husband and spouse. If the parents give away their money to their children, then there will be an inheritance tax. All this is long term but it is in keeping with the US and UK. Eventually, it will lead to a greater measure of equality.

In the UK, we have capital gains tax on profits in the stock market plus a 1-percent stamp duty. We have an annual car registration tax, a TV license tax and even a dog tax, except for the blind. The taxes on petrol, cigarettes and alcohol are far higher than they are here. Employees have what is known as Pay As You Earn and every Friday, an increasing amount of tax is deducted together with a contribution for national health and pension. We all complain about this but we pay up and make the best of it.

The result is that the government has money to give back to the poor, the sick and the unemployed. We have the lowest unemployment rate in Europe and the highest growth rate. In addition, we have free education from kindergarten to university and free medicine from birth till death. And our senior citizens enjoy substantial state pensions in addition to their company pensions. It makes for a large middle class with few rich and few poor.

We also have a parliamentary system, which has been in effect since 1350 and works extremely well. The government usually enjoys a comfortable majority and can therefore implement whatever changes are deemed necessary. There is a second House of Lords to study proposed changes and they can make recommendations but they do not have the power of veto. Therefore, what happened here with the e-VAT could never happen in London. In the UK, the elected government rules. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

Solar Entertainment to bid for RPN-9

By Clarissa S. Batino

SOLAR Entertainment, a production and programming outfit controlled by Wilson Tieng, is "definitely" going to bid for sequestered Radio Philippines Network or RPN-9 once the government puts it on the auction block, the company's top official said.

"We are looking at the numbers now," Tieng said in an interview.

Solar already has strong ties with RPN-9 as Tieng's company provides programming content to the station. Most of these programs are foreign TV series.

Tieng said joining the bidding for the sale of the sequestered media outfit's franchise, shares or assets, was a logical step for the company. The government has yet to decide what mode of privatization to take with RPN-9.

"We have invested substantial money in our programming and co-production agreement with RPN-9. We have been there for several years," said Tieng, a former movie producer and film distributor.

Tieng was one of three parties named as among those interested in acquiring RPN-9. The others are telecom czar Manuel Pangilinan and El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde.

RPN-9 operates seven other television stations and 14 radio stations nationwide. It also owns 2,930 square meters of land in Cebu.

The government, through the Presidential Commission on Good Government, controls 72.4 percent of the broadcast company. The shares were seized from Marcos associate Roberto Benedicto.

Of this stake, 32.4 percent was voluntarily surrendered by Benedicto while ownership of the remaining 40 percent is being contested by the PCGG and Far East Managers and Investors Inc., a company identified with former Benedicto employees.

Pangilinan and Velarde were rumored to have teamed up in bidding for another sequestered station, Intercontinental Broadcasting Corp. or IBC-13. Former ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. president Freddie Garcia was also reported to be with Pangilinan and Velarde's group.

While keeping mum on plans for either IBC-13 or RPN-9, Pangilinan, chair of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., admitted that he continued to talk with the owners of GMA Network Inc. for a possible buy-in.

PLDT offered to buy 67 percent of GMA 7 in 2001, but the talks bogged down due to valuation differences.

Solar holds the local rights to the US National Basketball Association games. It is also bidding for broadcast rights to the Philippine Basketball Association once the PBA's contract with Associated Broadcasting Corp. of ABC-5 expires.

Tieng's group had been bringing to local TV several popular boxing matches like those featuring Manny Pacquiao.

Solar also distributes cable channels such as Etc and Jack TV. It also produces Solar Sports and Solar Plus channels on cable.

Gov't defers . . .

From page B1

"It's fortunate that we're ahead but we need to clear this up soonest because a lot of these things are standing in the way of how the credit rating firms review the country's position," he stressed.

Cruz said the snag on the VAT law was spoiling the gains from the government's favorable fiscal performance for the month of June *(See story on page B5)*.

But Cruz said the Philippines would still push through with the roadshow later in the year.

"You can always do it late because the purpose is to meet with investors, not to deal. Mostly likely we'll have to meet with the investors around September," he said.

Whatever happens to the VAT reform, Cruz said the government would not borrow from the market at a high cost.

"The way to explain it to investors is that it can be reconsidered because from a law standpoint, one can't really stand in the way of tax collection, so there's a strong ground for a reconsideration," he said.

"I think the credit rating agencies obviously will be watching this closely and how this will affect us. I think they'll do their homework: what the TRO (temporary restraint order) means, what the reconsideration can do. They'll have to wait and find out the likely outcome of this legal decision," he explained.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 4, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.3	3.3	8,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30	30	28.5	29	2,059,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	47	45	46	3,573,200
China Banking Corp.	770	770	760	760	30
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.48	0.52	0.48	0.52	130,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49	49	42	45	306,500
International Exch. Bank	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	30,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	29	27	27	472,300
Philippine National Bank	41	42	41	42	146,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11	11	10.5	10.5	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	23.25	23.25	22.5	22.75	17,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	27.5	27.5	27	27	23,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2640	2640	2640	2640	170
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	973,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1840	1840	1840	1840	220
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	52,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.93	0.95	5,805,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	795	805	790	800	90,080
Ipeople Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.35	3.4	180,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.046	0.042	0.042	1,200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.42	2.44	8,307,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1560	1560	1530	1540	221,790
Ivantage Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.53	0.56	1,900,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.014	0.015	27,100,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	13.75	13.75	30,600
Manila Electric Co. B	21.25	21.25	20.5	21	470,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.1	6.1	5.9	6.1	8,612,000
Petron Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.6	2.65	3,551,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	50,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	1,040,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	100,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	38,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.3	7.3	6.8	7	2,914,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	100,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.04	174,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	50,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.7	6,704,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	237,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.05	410,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30.5	29.5	30	68,100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	28.5	27.5	27.5	115,900
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.73	0.73	130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	59	59	58	59	190,900
San Miguel Corp. B	93	93	90	91.5	241,400
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	15.25	16	230,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	12,000,000
Ayala Corp.	290	290	280	287.5	253,590
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.65	4.65	4.4	4.6	490,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.022	0.022	12,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.84	1.86	1,513,000
APC Group Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.22	240,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	117,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	5,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.89	0.9	14,950,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	650,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	230,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.3	2.32	2.2	2.2	1,954,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	18,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.2	6.2	552,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44	44	36.5	36.5	2,858,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.06	0.06	3,300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.1	1.1	140,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.35	3.35	3.15	3.15	1,053,000
Medco Holdings	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	450,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.1	1.1	9,913,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.3	27,060,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	2,200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.99	1	0.99	1	470,000
SM Investments Corp.	252.5	255	248	249	2,311,440
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	800,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	3,710,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	212,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHERS					
Belle Corp.	1	1.02	0.98	0.99	9,233,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	7.4	7.4	5	5	4,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.61	0.72	0.61	0.72	250,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.06	1,951,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	10.5	10.5	10	10.25	376,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref.) SerieS U	11	11	10.5	10.5	5,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	11	11	11	11	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	11.25	11.25	10.5	10.5	7,100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.3	7.3	6.8	6.9	29,199,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	350,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.21	0.21	7,130,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	2,240,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	12,440,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.22	1.28	7,401,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	500,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	600,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.1	2.1	80,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	810,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	600,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.2	9,718,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	10,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	77,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5	5	4.7	4.85	356,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	60,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	4,520,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.31	9,990,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	245,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	140,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.0055	0.0048	0.005	254,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.82	0.82	0.77	0.77	2,440,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.9	0.9	0.83	0.85	2,280,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	25.5	23.5	24	583,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	160,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	16,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	420,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.009	0.009	9,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.55	46,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	850,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	120,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	7,764,520	258,043,325.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	300,695,100	1,423,133,460.00
PRO	71,468,000	287,717,440.00
Mining	736,999,300	31,438,075.00
OIL	26,486,000	566,150.00
GRAND TOTALS:	1,143,412,920	2,000,898,450.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	519.82	DOWN 23.81
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,880.41	DOWN 116.12
PRO	646.23	DOWN 45.76
Mining	2,374.08	DOWN 176.48
OIL	2.24	DOWN 0.06
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,118.18	DOWN 43.61
Composite	1,815.67	DOWN 79.58

NO. OF ADVANCES: 6; NO. OF DECLINES: 106; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 20; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 132; NO. OF TRADES: 4,905

DISCLOSURES

PRUDENTIAL Bank disclosed that director Augusto Estrada acquired 42,176 shares on June 30, increasing his total shares to 178,297.

***

PRIME Gaming Philippines Inc. announced the resignation of treasurer Eh Yok Nah, and the appointment of Tan Eng Hwa to serve the unfinished term.

***

RFM Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from July 29 to Sept. 1.

***

KEPPEL Philippines Properties Inc. elected as directors Kevin Wong Kingcheung, Ang Wee Gee, Henry Sy Sr., Ramon Abejuela, Choo Chin Teck, Yeo Kah Tiang, Toh Ko Lin, Benedict Kua Hun Guan and Celso Vivas. It appointed Sycip, Gorres, Velayo & Co. as external auditor.

***

A Brown Company Inc. elected as directors Walter Brown, Victor Juat, Annabelle Brown, Robertino Pizarro, Patricia Juat, Jose Ma. Francisco and Elpidio Paras. It appointed Alba Romeo and Co. as external auditor.

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Con of worms

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal

JUST when nobody is looking in this troubled but still cute administration of Gloriaetta, the Go family in Equitable PCI Bank is carrying on a little "double-cross."

The board of the bank, which stays under the control of the Go family, already decided in effect to let the very same family keep control of the very same bank.

The family actually owns 25 percent of the bank. The government, using our retirement money as members of the SSS and GSIS, actually owns close to 40 percent.

Yet the Go family has been in control of the bank for the past five years or so, using what government representatives to the board love to call as the "1-2-3" scheme.

And what is this cute administration doing about the anomaly in the election of the members of the Equitable PCI board? Calling Comelec officials on the cell phone?

Actually, the board's latest decision involved the can of worms that is the some 10-percent shares in the bank parked in one of its subsidiaries.

The Go family does not own the shares. It follows then that the bank's board should only vote to let the family use the same shares to keep their stranglehold over the bank.

At our expense, of course! Hello, anybody home? Hello, hello, Garci?

***

LET me explain. As members of SSS and GSIS, as I said, we actually own more shares in the bank than the Go family does.

And that is the "double cross," right there, the "sting," the "con," the "1-2-3."

Together, with close to a 40-percent interest in the bank, the SSS and the GSIS have all of five seats in the 15-seat board of the bank. That's only one-third.

But whadayano, the Go family—even with an interest of only 25 percent—has the same number of seats!

Occupying one of the Go family's board seats is an American named Tony Conway, who is getting expat level pay, with all the expat level perks, such as travel, housing and cars, through one of the bank's subsidiaries.

But, in addition to the foreign "attack dog" of the Go family in the board of the bank in which we invested P16 billion of our retirement money, the family controls the board with the help of three "independent" directors.

Those three so-called independents are former DFA Secretary Roberto Romulo, former ambassador Cesar Bautista, and former diplomat Tony Basilio.

Why their common ground seems to be the foreign affairs department, actually, I should leave up to you to impute bad things into.

Anyway, all three have always voted in favor of the Go family, ALWAYS—as in "at all times"—going against the SSS and the GSIS, which have been trying to stop the Go family from imposing their will on the bank.

Additionally, the management representative to the board, who is bank president and CEO Rene Buenaventura, at times forgets to remain neutral on issues between the government side and the Go family.

I don't know if that is good for Buenaventura as a career banker.

I just know that the "double cross" scheme is not good for the Equitable PCI corporate secretary named Nilo Divina.

I heard that one of the government representatives to the board is readying a disbarment case against him.

***

BUT what is the "1-2-3" scheme all about again, involving those 10 percent shares?

Well, as background, it all started about six years ago, when then Equitable Bank, owned by the Go family, thought it would be best for them to buy a much bigger bank, called Philippine Commercial International Bank, then known as PCIB

At that time, Metrobank (owned by taipan George Ty) was poised to buy PCIB, in a joint venture with the SSS and the GSIS.

With the help of Malacañang, the Go-

BREAKTIME/ B4

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Dollar at new highs; most Asian stock markets up

SINGAPORE—A buoyant dollar hit 13-month highs against the euro on Monday, cheering Asian exporters and pushing stocks higher after strong US factory data reinforced expectations for more rate increases by the Federal Reserve.

Investors, however, were cautious after oil prices shot up 4 percent to $58.75 a barrel in US trade on Friday ahead of a long weekend. Oil and financial markets will remain shut in the United States on Monday for the Independence Day holiday.

Canon Inc., the world's largest digital camera maker and the top producer of laser printers, rose 0.85 percent, while Toyota Motor Corp. climbed 0.75 percent and Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. rose 1.09 percent.

"All the data coming out of the US shows the economy is firing on all engines," said Sharada Selvanathan, a currency strategist at BNP Paribas in Singapore. "Yield is driving this and will continue to do so."

But most Asian currencies traded lower, and gold fell to a 3-week low as the dollar, which also hit 14-month highs against the pound, reduced the metal's safe-haven appeal.

The dollar was boosted after an unexpectedly big jump in the US Institute for Supply Management's June index showed the manufacturing sector bouncing back from a slowdown, increasing chances the Fed will lift rates at least a few more times.

The steady rise in US rates has fueled a rally in the dollar this year, driving it up 12 percent against the euro as Europe's struggling economy and political upheaval have prompted investors to reduce holdings in the single currency.

The US economy's strength contrasts with growth troubles in the euro zone and Britain, where mounting signs of weakness have raised the prospect of the Bank of England cutting rates, which has taken a toll on the pound.

The yen traded near 111.62 yen to the dollar on Monday, after earlier hitting an 11-month low of 111.90.

The Indonesian rupiah hit its lowest level in more than three years, leading a fall in Asian currencies, including the South Korean won and the Philippine peso Traders this week will focus on the Group of Eight summit starting on Wednesday in Scotland, where Chinese President Hu Jintao will meet leaders. US President George W. Bush has said currencies will likely be a topic of discussion.

Any hints that China could soon take steps to loosen the yuan's tight peg against the dollar could support the yen, which traders tend to buy as a proxy for any eventual appreciation in the Chinese currency.

The MSCI index of Asian stocks ex-Japan was down 0.36 percent at 1 pm yesterday.

Tokyo's Nikkei average closed 0.18 percent higher, as investors turned cautious with the index near 12-week highs.

Ken Masuda, senior dealer in equities at Shinko Securities, said the market may soon face a correction.

"I expect the market to fall. Otherwise I'm not really interested in buying at this level," he said.

South Korean shares posted their highest close in almost four months, as a sharply weaker won currency and upbeat US economic data lifted Hyundai Motor Co. and other exporters.

Philippines and Hong Kong stocks bucked the regional trend.

Stocks in Manila fell more than 4 percent as investors reacted to a ruling last week by the Supreme Court freezing an expanded sales tax, the core of the government's reform plans.

Hong Kong stocks were 0.28 percent lower at the midday break as most investors were believed to have factored in a widely anticipated interest rate hike after the Fed raised rates.

Singapore stocks were up 0.41 percent at midday. The main Taiwan index, meanwhile, ended flat as investors held back before the June sales results from major technology companies.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the world's top contract chip maker, shed 1.08 percent after Nasdaq and the Philadelphia semiconductor index both ended flat on Friday.

US blue-chips were up on Friday, helped by evidence of stronger consumer confidence and manufacturing last month.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.28 percent to end at 10,303.44. The Nasdaq Composite Index was flat, closing at 2,057.37. *Reuters*

Japan recovery reaching households

TOKYO—Japanese companies raised wages and hired more full-time staff in May compared with a year earlier, government data showed on Monday, a sign that the effects of an economic recovery are filtering through to households.

The figures reinforce the view that personal spending will continue to underpin the economy as it struggles with a slowdown in exports.

Japanese wage earners' average regular pay was up 0.5 percent in May from the same month last year, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare said. In April, it rose 0.4 percent, the first increase in over four years.

Overtime pay rose 1.4 percent, up for the 34th straight month. In April, overtime pay rose a revised 2.3 percent year-on-year.

Analysts said the figures highlighted a gradual tightening in the job market as businesses recover. Companies were also willing to hire more full-time staff, unlike before when they tried to cut costs by increasing the number of lower-paying, part-time positions.

The data showed the number of full-time workers rose 1.1 percent in May, up fifth straight month.

That compared with a 0.8 percent year-on-year decline in the number of part-time workers. The figure had fallen in April for the first time since June 1995.

"This shows that years of corporate restructuring are coming to an end. Companies are also increasing permanent staff to cope with pending outflows of skilled labor as baby-boomers retire," said Naoki Iizuka, chief economist at Dai-Ichi Life Research Institute.

The figures follow data on Friday showing Japan's unemployment rate stood at 4.4 percent in May, matching April's six-year low.

The Bank of Japan's tankan survey of business sentiment on Friday also suggested an upturn in labor market conditions.

The survey's employment diffusion index for big manufacturers was plus 4 in June compared with plus 6 in the March survey. The outlook for three months ahead was plus 2, meaning a feeling of having excess labor is waning.

Planned hiring of new graduates rose by 13.1 percent for the fiscal year to next March for big firms, and by 5.8 percent for small firms, the tankan showed.

Economist said rising employment and wages may mean personal spending will help the economy ride out a recent slowdown in exports to China, Japan's biggest trading partner and its second-biggest export market.

Rising wages also offered a glimmer of hope for Japan's seven-year battle with deflation, analysts said.

"Rises in regular wages are said to take about six months to filter through to consumer prices," said Dai-Ichi's Iizuka. *Reuters*

A SOUTH Korean woman walks past an advertisement board of a housing-development apartment for sale at a showroom in Seoul. South Korean exports rose 10.4 percent in the year through June, slightly better than market forecasts, underpinning Asia's third-largest economy as it struggles with a slow recovery in consumer spending. Local financial markets showed little immediate movement in reaction to the data, but government bond prices rose sharply after Finance Minister Han Duck-soo said interest rates would not be raised only because real estate prices were going up.

Budget carriers seen heading for mergers

KUALA LUMPUR—Asia's most profitable budget carrier, AirAsia, is expecting a wave of consolidation in the sector as rising fuel prices and firmer aircraft leasing rates put pressure on new entrants, a report said Monday.

The Malaysia-based carrier's chief executive officer, Tony Fernandes, told the Financial Times that many no-frills ventures were founded by "people chasing what they thought was easy money" but who now faced much tougher operating conditions.

"I think business plans are looking quite different, and I think there's going to be a rationalization for sure. I think it's inevitable," he was quoted as saying in an interview from Singapore.

The comments come less than a week after Valuair and Jetstar Asia, two discount airlines based in Singapore, announced they were in talks that could lead to an alliance or merger.

The negotiations are a sign that the industry could be set for a shake-out after a period of rapid growth, with a host of new low-cost carriers having been set up across Southeast Asia and India in the past three years.

"At $25 jet fuel (per barrel), with aircraft leasing where it was and people seeing how well we were doing, there was a herd mentality, with many people chasing what they thought was easy money," Fernandes said.

"I think their business plans have obviously changed dramatically, with jet fuel now at $75 (per barrel) and a hardening in aircraft (leasing) pricing," he added, according to the report.

AirAsia, which launched as a budget operator in December 2001 with just two aircraft, has become a significant player in the industry and been imitated by startled national carriers along with a host of new low-cost entrants.

AirAsia is now Southeast Asia's biggest low-cost carrier in terms of fleet size and derives much of its business within Malaysia. It also operates in Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and China. *AFP*

Breaktime

From page B3

family succeeded in getting rid of Metrobank from the picture. They convinced GSIS and SSS to do a "fifty-fifty" arrangement, in which both sides would come up with the same amount to buy PCI.

But the Go family did not have enough money. That was the first part of what the government side in the board calls as the "double cross."

Without much ado, the family simply used the money of Equitable Bank to pay for a big bloc of PCI Bank shares, equivalent to about a 10 percent interest in the merged Equitable-PCIB.

The plan was for the shares to be sold, eventually, to a foreign bank. The deal fizzled out.

Without much ado again, the family simply parked the shares in one of the Equitable PCI subsidiaries, the one called EBC Investment.

The shares are still there. And the family is still using the shares to control the bank.

But of course the family is entitled to use the shares, simply because they did not use their own money to buy them.

They used the money of the bank, in which we, as members of the SSS and the GSIS, own more shares than the Go family does. Nice!

* * *

MEANWHILE, as the years went by, the second part of the "double cross" went on, as the Go family, even with only a minority interest, took control of the bank.

Recently, uncomfortable with the Go family's control of the bank, with the price of its share in the stock market sharply down, the GSIS and the SSS started to make noise about the "double cross."

Our pension funds wanted the Go family to stop using those 10-percent shares, which actually belonged to Equitable PCI, and thus, all of its stockholders.

The government side in the board has actually lined up a procession of proposals on what to do with those shares that perpetuated the Go family's "double cross."

None of them pleased the board, particularly the five members representing the Go family, together with the three "independent" directors.

What the board decided was, well, since the shares were put in the name of EBC Investment, the management of EBC Investment would vote on those shares.

WHAAAT? Why did they not just say that the Go family would still use the shares, period? It is just the same thing.

The bank happens to own 100 percent of EBC Investment. Whatever the bank says, in other words, EBC Investment will only have to follow.

And then the Go family controls the bank. It does not take a genius to figure out how EBC Investment will vote, using those shares.

It's just another way of saying that the Go family will continue to control the bank—at the expense of all members of the GSIS and the SSS, who invested P16 billion of their retirement money in the bank, without anything to show for it.

Not even just having enough board seats in the bank!

* * *

AND yet, this "double cross" is going on, despite the warning given by the Bangko Sentral to the bank about five years ago.

At that time, noting that the bank still had its money locked in those 10-percent shares, which were still parked with EBC Investment, the Bangko Sentral ordered the bank to sell the same shares, and very soon, please.

For the sale, the Bangko Sentral gave the bank only two years. Again, the Bangko Sentral gave the order five years ago. Somebody does not know how to count. What do you think?

Now, if the Go family in Equitable PCI can just slap the Bangko Sentral in the face just like that, what kind of discipline can the Bangko Sentral expect from other banks, say, regarding the peso-dollar exchange rate?

Wait a minute—from what I heard, the Bangko Sentral is going to force the Go family to come up with the money to buy those shares or else...

You see, the Bangko Sentral is looking at an angel of "capital impairment."

Since the bank used its money to buy the shares, and the shares are now worth only half of the buying price, the bank must come up with the difference.

How? By selling the shares of course!

Now, the only problem is, if the Go family just dribbled the Bangko Sentral for the past five years on those same shares, what can make them follow the rules this time?

I mean, the Bangko Sentral must at least give a definite deadline on the capital infusion. Like, right away, please!

Asians drive slower, shed ties to cushion $60 oil hit

SEOUL—Asian nations are scrambling to curb energy use as oil hits $60, but a resilient US economy and subsidized prices at home mean these marginal measures will scarcely dent demand, analysts say.

Tieless Japanese bureaucrats, slower Thai drivers and overheated Chinese shoppers may help save a barrel or two of oil or a few megawatts of power, but they will not reverse the region's powerful energy growth, which last year accounted for nearly half of global incremental oil demand.

Vulnerable to costs

"Overall, it's doubtful whether they will have a significant effect in the absence of compulsory measures and a lack of voluntary moves," said Moon Young-seok, an economist at state-funded Korea Energy Economics Institute (KEEI).

The Asia Pacific region consumes nearly 30 percent of the world's oil but produces only 10 percent, making it more vulnerable than other areas to rising costs.

While prices add pressure to wobbly economies in Japan and South Korea, they have not derailed US growth, which is vital for Asia's export-oriented economic health.

With that intact, governments are reluctant to incur public wrath with any draconian curbs, although this week's break above $60 a barrel set alarm bells ringing around the region.

South Korea, whose $50 billion energy bill makes up nearly a quarter of its total imports, this week debated ways to cut back as officials said the searing oil rally threatened to shave nearly 1 percentage point off economic growth.

Seoul sealed a pact with major local makers of electronic home appliances to improve energy efficiency of their products, but said it would reduce electricity use by just 0.25 percent.

Japan, which has a long-term policy to support nuclear power to reduce its reliance on oil, has encouraged public servants to go tie-less this summer to cut air-conditioner use.

Efforts to curb electricity help reduce the need for imported oils and liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the north Asian nations, who use both fuels to generate power.

Energy prices have risen much more slowly than the cost of other goods over the past two decades -- blunting public efforts to conserve energy, with consumers and companies showing little inclination to cut back usage.

In inflation-adjusted terms, oil at $60 a barrel is still about $20 below the peaks of the 1970s.

"In terms of real economic impact, Asian economies are better able to absorb $50 or $60 oil prices now than they have been in previous years," said CSFB economist Joseph Lau.

Longer-term investment in renewable energy sources such as wind, solar or bio-fuels look more viable with oil above $50 a barrel, but will take years before making a dent.

Thailand, for instance, is mandating a 10 percent ethanol blend in motor fuels from 2007 to reduce oil demand, but in the short term has resorted to pleading with its populace.

Thailand has set a medium-term target to cut back its energy use by 20 percent by 2009, saving it $5 billion, but has seen little benefit from its campaign this summer to get citizens to turn off air conditioners during lunch breaks and asking drivers to go no faster than 90 kilometers an hour.

Subsidies hurt

Bangkok has done more than most of its neighbors by moving to gradually cut fuel price subsidies, hoping that higher prices will accomplish what official campaigns have not.

Others, including major consumers China and India as well as top producers like Malaysia and Indonesia, have allowed only limited increases in subsidized retail fuels, giving consumers little incentive to cut back using cheap energy.

For the world's No. 2 energy consumer China, the push for conservation stems more from a debilitating power deficit than a desire to lower oil use.

It has decreed that 6,000 industrial firms must shut for a week this summer and that shopping malls should run their air-conditioning at 26 degrees.

Even Opec member Indonesia has begun to address demand, saying this week it was considering an automobile tax and a power tariff increase as soaring subsidy costs stretched fuel supplies thin and put mounting pressure on the budget. *Reuters*

New Bangko Sentral chief seen ready to face tough challenges

AMANDO Tetangco has big shoes to fill as he takes over as Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor, and he could hardly have a more hazardous path ahead.

Markets are unnerved by a political scandal that has enveloped President Macapagal-Arroyo and which threatens to overshadow her limited success in reforming the economy and wean it off foreign debt.

But analysts and market players are confident that Tetangco, with nearly 30 years' experience of central banking through uprisings, coups and currency crises, can take the pressure.

The career central banker has won a reputation for technical competence and market savviness under the tutelage of respected predecessor Rafael Buenaventura, on sick leave since March.

Tetangco has effectively been running the central bank since.

"Our policy over the next two years will emphasize continuity and consistency," Tetangco, whose term as governor runs for six years, said at a business forum last week.

It is not the most scintillating agenda but comments like that are music to the ears of markets, which came to see the central bank under Buenaventura, twice named as among the world's top central bankers, as the country's most competent institution.

"The market is very comfortable with this governor, primarily because he's been around. He's not a new face in the world of banking and definitely not a new face as far as regulators are concerned," said a treasurer at a foreign bank in Manila.

"The new governor is viewed as being more open in terms of taking in market views."

The most pressing problem for the 52-year-old Tetangco, who lists golf and shooting as hobbies, is keeping a lid on inflation which has been driven to 8.5 percent in recent months by the surging price of oil imports.

The central bank's stance is that since nearly all the pressure on prices is from oil and other costs rather than rising demand, higher interest rates are not the answer.

Accordingly, it has only changed its key rates once in the past two years—a quarter-point hike on April 7 this year.

The central bank's overnight borrowing rate stands at 7.0 percent and its lending rate at 9.25 percent.

George Worthington, chief Asia-Pacific economist for IFR Thomson Financial, said the central bank had kept interest rates too high under Buenaventura, unnecessarily squeezing the economy.

"I think what the Philippines was lacking in the past few years was a spur from monetary policy. Real interest rates were running at 4-5 percent," he told Reuters.

But a gathering political storm over allegations of corruption and electoral fraud against President Arroyo is threatening to upset the central bank's policy.

The peso slumped close to its record low of 56.45 to the dollar on Monday as markets fretted that Arroyo's government was being undermined by constant opposition attacks.

"Excessive currency weakness owing to the current political uncertainty could prompt the BSP (central bank) to announce additional and earlier hikes," JPMorgan said in a note on Thursday, after the bank announced it was keeping rates on hold.

Tetangco's other main challenge is to revive a banking sector that has staged only a slow and incomplete recovery from the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis and whose P207 billion ($3.7 billion) in bad loans is still acting as a drag on the economy.

Banks' non-performing-loan ratio fell to 11.3 percent in March from 12.7 percent at the end of last year, but remains well short of the central bank's end-2005 target of 7.5 percent. *Reuters*

Budget surplus expected

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT is expected to post a budget surplus in June, following a P7.6-billion deficit in May, due to more cautious spending and higher revenue collection, National Treasurer Omar Cruz said yesterday.

Citing preliminary figures from the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Cruz said the government likely over-performed against its own target of a P12-billion deficit for June. He said the June performance would likely replicate the surplus seen in April.

"We are almost P29 billion ahead [of fiscal target] for the entire semester," he told reporters. Since February when he took over the helm of the Bureau of Treasury, Cruz said the government's borrowing cost had gone down by about P10 billion.

At the same time, revenue collection has improved amid the BIR's aggressive crackdown on tax evaders.

But Cruz admitted that the Supreme Court's suspension of the implementation of the value added tax (VAT) was a big stumbling block for the government. The VAT suspension is seen to result in about P5 billion in foregone revenue for each month, based on BIR estimates.

Acknowledging that the SC ruling would be a big blow to sovereign creditworthiness, Cruz said it was fortunate that the government had pre-funded some of its foreign borrowing requirements for the year.

The government posted a budget deficit of P7.6 billion in May, down from P12.7 billion recorded in the same month last year.

In the first five months of 2005, the budget deficit stood at P67.8 billion, 12.4 percent lower than the P77.4 billion deficit in the same period of 2004 and only 70 percent of the government's target for the first six months.

John Hay seeks Peza registration

THE BASES Conversion and Development Authority has applied with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority for the accreditation of the John Hay Special Economic Zone, BCDA chair Filadelfo S. Rojas Jr. said yesterday.

Peza was created in 1995 to promote the establishment of world class, environment friendly economic zones all over the country. It grants fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to developers of economic zones. Part of its mandate is the development of tourist/recreational centers.

"The BCDA is optimistic that it will be able to meet the standards set by Peza," Rojas said.

He said that Camp John Hay has the potential of being an international tourism destination. It is presently drawing a substantial number of domestic and foreign visitors.

Once accredited, Peza incentives will be available to JHSEZ locators. These include tax breaks. Ecozone locators are required to pay a uniform gross income tax of 5 percent. Of this, 3 percent goes to the national government, 1 percent to the host local government unit and 1 percent to a development fund earmarked for municipalities outside and contiguous to the ecozone.

Responsible mining pushed

A MULTI-SECTORAL group at the Roundtable Kusog Mindanaw Conference in Davao City called for responsible mining as a win-win route to peace and development in Mindanao.

More than a hundred representatives from business, civil society, the academe, and the national and local governments attended the forum, dubbed "Mining for Misery or Digging for Prosperity?" at the Marco Polo Hotel over the weekend.

Sponsored by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and facilitated by the Technical Assistance Center for the Development of Rural and Urban Poor , the two-day forum reached a consensus on 15 issues that seek to revive the industry through the promotion of responsible mining.

The conference was organized by Kusog Mindanaw, a multi-sectoral group composed of the Bishop-Ulama Conference, Con-Fed Mindanao, Mindanao Business Council (MBC), Mindanao Commission on Women, Mindanao Legislators Association and Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks.

Signing off on a revitalization program, the participants agreed to: Ensure safety nets, rehabilitate abandoned mining areas, respect and observe the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (Ipra), and strengthen the participation of IPs, nongovernmental Organizations, local government units (LGUs) and other stakeholders in the mine rehabilitation fund committee and multipartite monitoring team.

The participants affirmed that tribal leaders should be involved in decision-making and pushed for substantial IP participation in ensuring strong enforcement of—and regular monitoring of compliance with—the law. They also agreed that the free and prior informed consent (FPIC) of the community should be obtained before a mining company can operate in a particular area and that FPIC amendments should emanate from the grassroots level.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Enrique Z. Clemente was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 218, Page No. 44, Book No. V, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Anthony T. Co of Muntinlupa City (PDI-June 21, 28, July 5, 2005)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE JULIO DRILON DUMANCAS AND MARTA DIMAAPI DUMANCAS WERE EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG THEIR HEIRS AS PER DOC. NO. 12 PAGE NO. 04 BOOK NO. 02 SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC VILMA HILDA VILLANUEVA-FABELLA OF CITY OF PARAÑAQUE. (PDI JUNE 28, JULY 5 & 12, 2005)

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1. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER**, through *General Appropriations Act of 2005* and *TRUST FUND* intends to apply specified sums for the following projects:
    - a. **Project : Procurement of Various Office Equipment (IAEB No. 2005-09)**
      Approved Budget for the Contract : *TWO MILLION ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED Philippine Pesos (PhP2,181,600.00) (Trust Fund)*
      Sale of Bid Documents June 27 to August 1, 2005
      Pre-Bid Conference July 29, 2005, 9:00 AM, BMC Library
      Bid Opening August 10, 2005, 9:00 AM, BMC Library
    - b. **Project : 1. Procurement of Radiology and Laboratory Supplies and Reagents (IAEB No. 2005-010)**
      Approved Budget for the Contract. *SIX MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN THOUSAND Philippine Pesos (PhP6,537,000.00) (GAA)*
        - **2. Fixed Rate Variable Volume Scheme for Hematology and Clinical Chemistry Supplies and Reagents (Laboratory) (IAEB No. 2005-011)**
          Approved Budget for the Contract : *ELEVEN MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND Philippine Pesos (PhP11,400,000.00) (Trust Fund)*
          Sale of Bid Documents June 27 to July 29, 2005
          Pre-Bid Conference July 27, 2005, 9:00 AM, BMC Library
          Bid Opening August 8, 2005, 9:00 AM, BMC Library
    - c. **Project : Labor and Materials: Delivery and Installation of One (1) Set New PABX Telephone System including Integration of New Paging System (IAEB No. 2005-012)**
      Approved Budget for the Contract : *ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND Philippine Pesos (PhP1,700,000.00) (Trust Fund)*
      Sale of Bid Documents June 27 to July 26, 2005
      Pre-Bid Conference July 22, 2005, 9:00 AM, BMC Library
      Bid Opening August 5, 2005, 9:00 AM, BMC Library

    Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated projects. Delivery of the Goods required as stated in the Special Conditions of the Contract for each project.
   The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon; 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, except weekends and Holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents for each project may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **TWO THOUSAND Philippine Pesos (PhP2,000.00)**. The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount of at least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency:
    1. *Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)*
    2. *Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC)*
    3. *Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)*

   Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Address BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
Concepcion Pequena, Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-2334; (054) 473-89-36
E-mail Address : slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax No. (054) 473-89-36; (054) 473-2334; (054) 8112227
Website : http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Contact Person RODOLFO C. URSUA, MD, FPCS, FPUA
Medical Specialist II and BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) RUBEN R. PENAFIEL, MD, MHA
Officer-in-charge
Bicol Medical Center

(PDI–June 29 & July 5, 2005)

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cut & clip

GALING PILIPINO MOVEMENT (GPM) is a non-profit, private sector initiative of citizens committed to recognize, affirm and propagate what is good and excellent about being PILIPINO to develop a culture of excellence and a commendable sense of national pride as a value-centered foundation for nation-building. *Itaguyod natin ang Galing Pilipino!*

July 2005 Calendar of Events

Galing Housekeeping Seminar

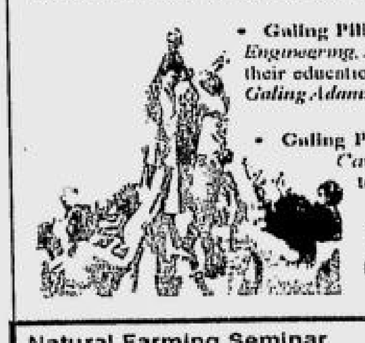
8am to 5pm, Monday, July 11, 2005
I-PEX Training Center
Hotel Victoria de Malate, Manila

GPM's eco-agro tourism program, BISITA PILIPINAS, will enlist private homes, preferably ancestral houses, whose owners and caretakers are willing to participate in the development of a local bed & breakfast homestay program. Learn the techniques of quality housekeeping.. find out how to make beds ala hotel style.. know the proper use of cleaning aids. AND MORE! A well-kept house speaks of a well-run home

Seminar Fee: P100.00 for GPM Members, P200.00 for non-members

Galing Pilipino Youth Kapihan

Not faltered by the growing confusion about our country's political and economic circumstances today, our Galing Pilipino Young Leaders chose to do what is "galing" by spearheading Galing Pilipino Kapihans in their own campuses:



- **Galing Pilipino Kapihan-Adamson.** *July 15, 2005, Friday, 9am to 12nn, OZ Audiovisual Room, College of Engineering, Adamson University, San Marcelino Street, Manila.* Outstanding Adamson alumni will share how their education enabled them to succeed in their chosen professions in the breakfast forum *"Galing Pilipino, Galing Adamson"* organized by the newly-established GPM-Adamson chapter.
- **Galing Pilipino Kapihan-Cavite.** *July 15, 2005, Friday, 9am to 12nn, Christian Values School, Bacoor, Cavite.* GPM youth volunteers from Christian Values School will feature *"Galing Career Orientation"*, to capture insights from professionals on the most promising careers needed by our country today.
- **Galing Pilipino Kapihan-PUP.** *July 20, 2005, Wednesday, Amado Hernandez Hall, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Sta. Mesa, Manila.* Active GPM-PUP chapter holds yet another timely forum on *"Social Responsibility through Leadership and Integrity"*

Free Registration! Brunch courtesy of Chowking

Natural Farming Seminar

8am to 5pm, Saturday, July 23, 2005
Chowking-Madison, Madison Street corner
Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan

BABUYAN NA HINDI AMOY BABOY! Innovative Galing Pilipino seminar conducted by Mr. Andry Lim. Attend this seminar & find out how to raise pigs... ***WALANG HUGAS, WALANG LIGO, WALANG BAHO!*** Learn how to grow ***CHEMICAL-FREE FRUITS & VEGETABLES.*** And know how to make concoctions using natural ingredients found in your backyard.

Seminar Fee: P500.00 for GPM members, P1,000.00 for non-members

GP Kapihan

8am to 11 am, Saturday, July 30, 2005
APC Auditorium, Asia Pacific College, Magallanes, Makati City

GP Kapihan is a monthly breakfast forum that features good news and innovative and uncommon solutions to common problems as a counterpoint to pervading negativism and bad news syndrome.

Our country is what we make it, and the solutions to our problems lie in each of us. This is what the book ***"12 Little Things Every Filipino Can Do To Help Our Country"*** is about. Hear author Atty. Alex Lacson share about how we can move our country to greatness by improving on the ***"little things"***. Plus other inspirational 'galing' life stories!

Free Registration! Brunch courtesy of Chowking

For particulars call GPM Foundation Inc at (02)633.1089 or (02)631.3932 or log on to www.galingpilipino.com

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate

❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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In Loving Memory of

MA. ROSARIO S. VALTE

"Chayee"

St. Paul College Manila HS '80
De La Salle University '84

who passed on to eternal life
on July 2, 2005 at the age of 42.

Her husband **ERIC**; children **ERICA, ERIN, ERIC II** and **ELISE**; mother **Maria E. Gennaoui**; father **Arcadio Sta. Cruz**; brothers **Rommel, Edward** and **Archie**; sisters **Daniela** and **Bea**; and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Our Lady of the Lake, Queen of Peace Shrine, Dagatan Boulevard (Sampalok Lake), San Pablo City, Laguna. Nightly Masses at 7:00 p.m.

Cremation will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City on July 8, 2005 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the OLLQP Shrine.

"Only Goodness and Love will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever."

PRIMITIVA ARTECHE CABRERA

(Priming)

peacefully joined our Lord on July 3, 2005
at the age of 80.

Husband, (†) **Vicente (Tingting) R. Cabrera**. Her loving children **Naida & Harry, Celeste & Joey, Butch & Lelette, Chelo & Yves, Monet & Chedette**. Grandchildren **Tanya, Nikki, Buddy, Liza, Arlo, Yvette, YJ, Mikki & Carla**; Great grandchildren **Thaniel, Ella & Mikhaella**.

Her remains lie in state at St. Martin De Porres Parish Church, Narra St., United Hills Village, East Service Road, South Superhighway (SLEX) Parañaque.

Cremation on Thursday, July 7, 2005 after the 9 a.m. Mass.

Our dearest Nanay, as you journey onward to the Father, may you remember always that our love and deep appreciation for you and all the blessings you have brought into our lives and the lives of many others will be forever be etched in our hearts.

Bonifacia "Pacing" Sto. Domingo y Eustaquio

of San Juan, Metro Manila
peacefully joined her Creator on June 30, 2005 at the age of 92.
(June 5, 1913 – June 30, 2005)
Loving husband:
(†) Dr. Braulio "Boyong" Sto. Domingo, Jr.

Her loving children **Zenaida & Potenciano Larrazabal, Jr., Carmelita & Carl John Matriano, Jose & Iluminada De Guzman, Adolfo & Lovelina Morelos, Linda & Oscar Tuason, Fe & Carlos Aquino, Agnes & Enrico Gruet, Braulio Jr. & Carmen Larrazabal**; grandchildren **Mia & Neil Carcel, Betty & Mike Veloso, Yong & Donna Yrastorza, Philip & Marivic Labado, Gabby, John John & Mica Cabigao, Richard & Ada Hernando, Joel & Lizette, James, Maridelle & Dave Araneta, Malen & Paul Jalandoni, Gigi & Paul Real, Jun-Jun & Jill Mercado, Marion, Joshua, Gerard, George & Vida Romualdez, Alex & Lea Disini, Bennett, Nina, Ritzi & Rainier Salazar, Leo & Rica**; great grandchildren; brothers **Peping & Pentong Eustaquio**; sisters-in-law **Bini, Pilaring & Pering**, other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

The body lies in state at the Celebration Hall, Pinaglabanan Church, San Juan, Metro Manila. Interment will be on Wednesday, July 6, 2005 at the San Juan Municipal Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Pinaglabanan Church.

LINDA GUERRERO HERMOGINO

November 3, 1941 – July 3, 2005
Regional Director, Department of Land Reform, Region V
Past Regent & Regional Representative
Daughters of Mary Immaculate International
University of the Philippines BSHE '62

Her bereaved husband **Didoy Hermogino**; children **Jean** and **Ruffy Callanta, Leni** and **Lambert Javalera, Dick**; brothers **Rene, Adrian** and **Alvin**; sisters **Marilu** and **Vicky**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish Church, Katipunan Road, QC. A Mass will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 7, 2005. Cremation will follow after the Mass.

Death Notices

Rosario Papa-De Los Reyes

passed away on July 1, 2005 at the age of 82.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Sucat Parañaque.

Interment will be tomorrow, July 6, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat Parañaque after the 2 p.m. Mass.

Monina "Nina" Castañeda-Encarnacion

was brought together with her Maker on July 1, 2005.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque.

Cremation will take place after the 9 a.m. Mass on July 7, 2005 at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium, Sucat, Parañaque.

Lourdes Adriano Florcruz y Lopez

Died on June 30, 2005.

Interment tomorrow, July 6, 2005 at Malolos Municipal Cemetery, Caniogan, Malolos, Bulacan following the 9 a.m. Mass at Barasoain Church.

A Minister of the Lord

REV. LYDIA NAZARIO NIGUIDULA

Joined her Creator on July 2, 2005, at the age of 76.
She lies in state at the UCCP-Ellinwood Malate Church
1660 Vasquez St., Malate, Manila
Thanksgiving Services at 6:00 PM everyday.
Necrological Service on Wednesday, July 6, 2005 at 8:00 PM
Interment at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, 11:00 AM, Thursday, July 7, 2005
She is survived by her brothers and sisters: Luciano, Cloe, Conrado, Ana Victoria, Faustino and Josue.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." — John 3:16

In loving memory of

FELIX HILADO PERONILLA, JR.

"CLIFF"

Who was reunited with our Lord
on July 3, 2005 at the age of 54.

His brothers **Alberto, Rene, Luis** and **Arthur** and only sister **Ma. Cecilia**, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish Church, Philam Homes, Quezon City.

Interment will be on July 7, 2005, Thursday at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PNOC
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Philippines MCPO Box 2102 Tel. No. 893-6001/1320

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

2005-2006 ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR VOYAGE CHARTER OF TRAMPING VESSELS (ON-CALL PRIORITY BASIS)
EDC 05-066

The Approved Budget is **P 12,590,700.00** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is One (1) year.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o N.A. Nicolasora) starting **July 5, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: **Two Hundred (Php200.00).**

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **July 15, 2005, 2:00 a.m.** at 1st Floor Building 5, PNOC-EDC, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st Floor Bldg. 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. on August 9, 2005** and shall be opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI--July 5, 2005)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City
INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF JUNK ITEMS
"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING: July 21, 2005, 2:00 PM, Solarium Hall, Bldg-I Grd. Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following scrap and junk items located at various NPC stations.

SCHEDULE - I

	Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1.	One (1) lot of unserviceable and junk power cable located at Mak-Ban GTPP, Bo. Bitin, Bay, Laguna	P 3,132,000.00
2.	One (1) Amian Pipeline located at Amian, Negros Oriental	P 70,400.00
3.	One (1) lot scrap metals consisting of junk diesel engine parts located Bongao and Siasi Diesel Power Plants Note : Bidding for this item shall be conducted simultaneously at NPC Diliman, Q.C. and NPC-SPUG, Zamboanga City	P 42,000.00

SCHEDULE - II

1.	Barite, 8,010 bags, 100 lbs per bag located at Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant, Tiwi, Albay	P 502,627.50

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S / CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OFFER.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2004 ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY) OF THE BIDDER AND TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE AND ONE (1) COPY OF VALID IDENTIFICATION CARD LIKE DRIVER'S LICENSE, GSIS ID, SSS ID, POSTAL ID, PASSPORT, PRC ID AND COMPANY ID.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from Mr. S.V. Lomuntad, Jr., OIC, Warehousing Inventory, Traffic and Asset Disposal Division (WITADD) at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 922-8431. For Mindanao bidders, bid form is available at NPC, SPUG Mindanao Office, Sto. Niño Drive, Putik Road, Tomaga, Zamboanga City. c/o Mr. Ahmad H. Alsree, Manager, SPUG-Mindanao. **Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 PM July 20, 2005.**

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI - July 4, 5 & 6, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF CEBU
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-GOODS AND SERVICES
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City
----- oOo -----

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Goods and Services (BAC-GS), hereby invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : **SECURITY AND ESCORT SERVICES**
Location : **Cebu Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center (CPDRC), Kalunasan, Cebu City**
Brief Description : **To provide security guards to guard different posts at the entire CPDRC, escort guards to secure inmates to and from court hearings and/or hospitals, escort vehichels and necessary tools, equipment, security aids and materials.**
Approved Budget for the Contract : **Php 4,367,571.50**
Contract Duration : **August 16, 2005 to December 31, 2005 (4½ months)**

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of bids shall also be conducted

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 5 to July 15, 2005
2. Pre-bid conference	July 15, 2005, 10:00 A.M.
3. Opening of bids	July 27, 2005, 10:00 A.M.
4. Bid Evaluation	July 28, 2005, 2:00 P.M.
5. Post-Qualification	August 4, 2005, 2:00 P.M.
6. Notice of Award	August 9, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to the prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of TWO THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P2,000.00) to the Cash Receipts Division, Office of the Provincial Treasurer.

The Provincial Government of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid

(Sgd.) BERNARD E. CALDERON
BAC-GS Chairman

(PDI--July 5 & 12, 2005)

First AsPac-based global travel management specialist in RP

FCM TRAVEL Solutions, the first Asia-Pacific based global corporate travel and expense management specialist, will be officially established in the Philippines today with the signing of a new network partner, Blue Horizons Travel and Tours Ltd.

The corporate travel flagship of Australasian-based Flight Centre Limited, an award-winning global travel business, FCm Travel Solutions will offer local companies the strategic end-to-end travel services of a world class travel management provider.

Businesses of all sizes will have access to extensive international reach, world-best fares of the day, unprecedented control of their travel expenditure and policy compliance, and 24/7 emergency assistance worldwide.

FCm Travel Solutions' Asia director Joseph Kao said local companies would benefit from the group's added advantage of being based within Asia Pacific.

"We channel our energies into providing a highly dedicated and hands-on service, and a flexible approach to the solutions required by each client.

FCm Travel Solutions' services and solutions include advanced management reporting and analysis, independent travel advice, fingertip travel information, frequent flyer management, a global hotel program, total travel fulfillment (visas, passports, insurance, airport transfers, etc.) and services for the meetings, incentives, conferences and events sector.

BUSINESS

Oil firms told to declare one-day VAT collections

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy has advised oil firms to declare and remit to the Bureau of Internal Revenue their value-added tax collections during the one day the expanded VAT was imposed.

The Supreme Court suspended the implementation of Republic Act 9337 or the VAT Reform Act a day after the law took effect.

BIR Memorandum Circular No. 30-2005 issued on July 2 required oil firms to remit all VAT-related collections to the tax-collection agency.

"While we are saddened by the issuance of the TRO, we are confident we can have it lifted soon as the Department of Finance, the BIR and other government agencies work together to make appropriate representation to the high court. In the meantime, all VAT collections during the day prior to the TRO will have to be submitted to the BIR," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said in a statement.

Hours before the Supreme Court's issuance of the TRO on RA 9337, oil firms jacked up their prices to reflect the impact of the VAT. After the issuance of the TRO, local oil firms rolled back their prices to pre July 1 levels.

With the implementation of the e-VAT law on hold, Lotilla said Executive Order 440, which reduced the tariff on crude and refined petroleum products to 3 percent from 5 percent, was likewise suspended.

The tariff slash was one of the measures the government had put in place to cushion the impact of the VAT on fuel pump prices.

In a related development, Lotilla urged distribution utilities to continue working on revising their lifeline rate structures despite the TRO on the e-VAT law implementation.

"We are urging them [distribution utilities] to go ahead and submit their petition for revised lifeline rate structures to the Energy Regulatory Commission," he said.

"This will give the ERC enough time to conduct public hearings and evaluate the petitions until such time the high court lifts the TRO," he added.

The DOE has ordered all distribution utilities to review and revise their lifeline rate structure to ensure that those entitled to the lifeline discounts would be able to enjoy the same subsidies even after the imposition of the 10-percent VAT on power.

Department Circular No. 2005-06-005, signed June 22, ordered all distribution utilities to submit for the ERC's approval their revised lifeline consumption levels and corresponding rate structure as soon as possible.

Under the current lifeline rate structure, electricity users consuming 1 to 50 kilowatt-hours (kWh) a month are entitled to a 50-percent discount on power charges.

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500,000 - 999,999	5.125	5.250	5.375	5.625
1.0MM - 4,999,999	5.375	5.625	5.750	5.875
5.0MM - 9,999,999	5.500	5.750	5.875	6.000
10 million and up	5.750	6.000	6.250	6.500

*Quoted rates are subject to change without prior notice.
Rates are on per annum basis and net of documentary stamp taxes.

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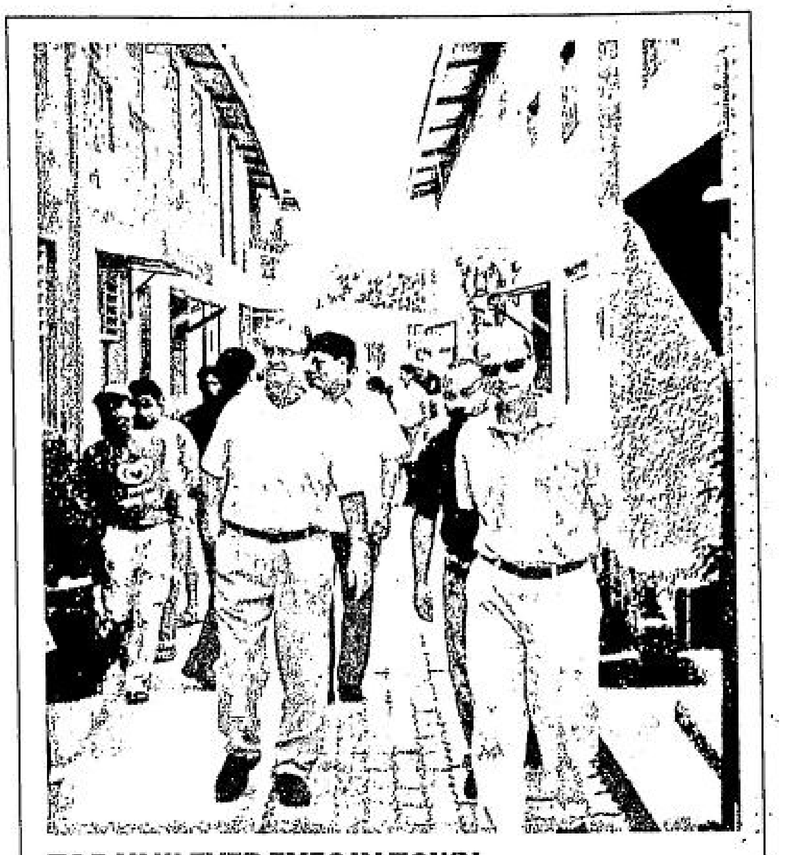


TOP UNILEVER EXEC IN TOWN

Tex Gunning (right), Unilever group vice president for Southeast Asia and Australasia, visits Selecta Village in Cainta, one of the villages set up under the Gawad Kalinga housing program that the Unilever group in the Philippines supports. With him are Unilever officials led by Howard Belton (left) chair and CEO, Unilever Philippines.

NDC to issue 10-year bonds worth ₱3B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Development Co. yesterday said it would sell this month P3 billion worth of 10-year bonds to finance the rehabilitation of the Alabang viaduct.

NDC general manager Arthur Aguilar said in an interview that while the bonds would be sold under the government's agriculture and agrarian reform program, it would not prevent the investment arm of the trade department from using the proceeds to upgrade the South Luzon Expressway.

"The whole SLEX is agri-agra, if you think about it, because a good portion of Luzon's produce passes through it," said Aguilar.

About 60 percent of Luzon's produce passes through the SLEX daily for distribution to other provinces, thus, Aguilar said the upgrade of the SLEX and the rehabilitation of the Alabang viaduct would qualify as a farm-to-market road.

"When we talk of agri-agra, it's not just agronomics. So right now, the proceeds of the bond issue is allocated for the SLEX," said Aguilar, who also heads the Philippine National Construction Corp.

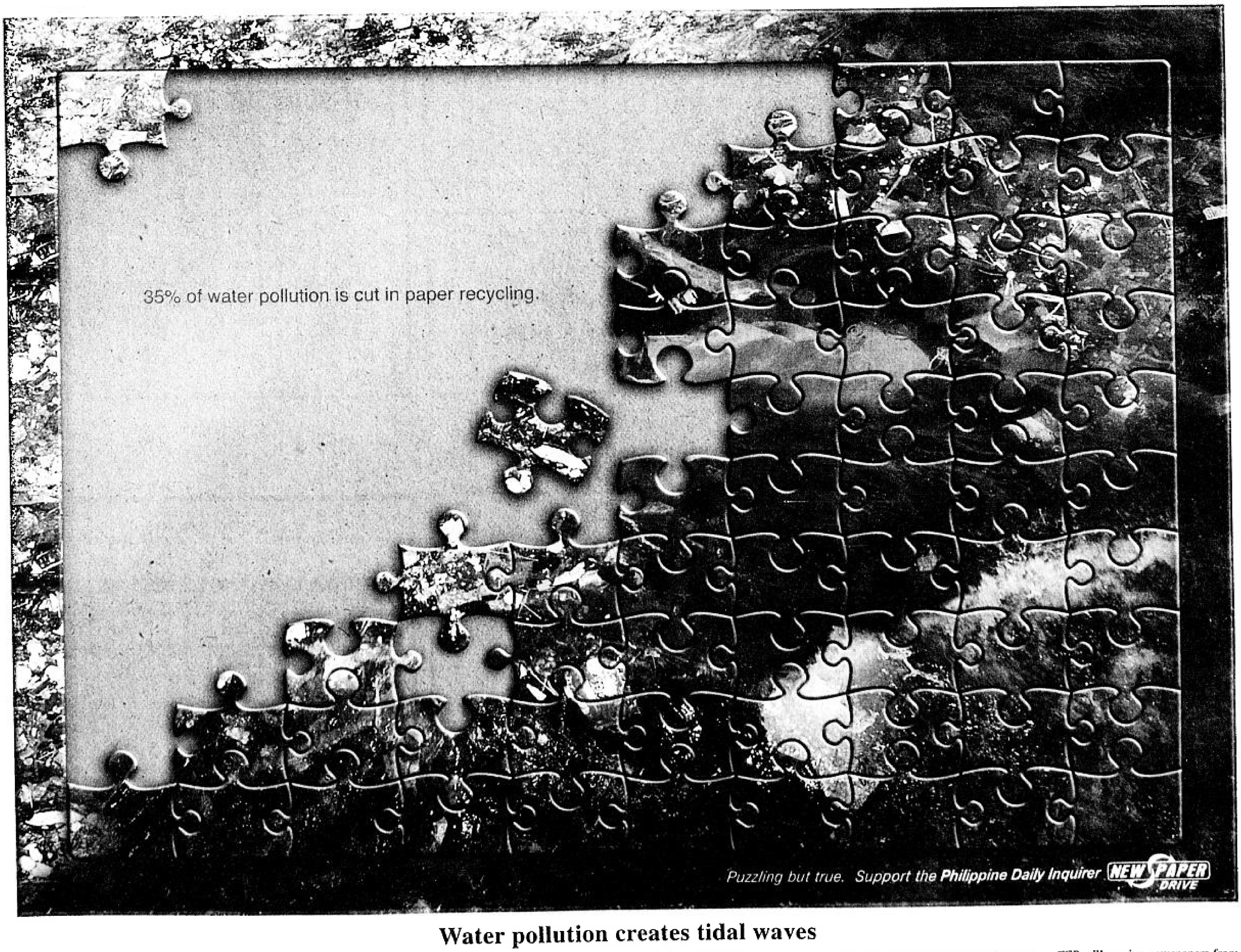
However, if a private sector group can prove that it can handle the P10-billion upgrade of the SLEX on its own, Aguilar said the NDC would channel the proceeds of the bond issue to other projects.

The bond sale this month would be the third of what the NDC now calls the AA bonds. The bonds were previously referred to as Erap bonds, short for Economic Recovery through Agricultural Productivity.

The NDC first issued these bonds during the first year of ousted President Joseph Estrada's administration.

The agency sold P5 billion worth of Erap bonds in December 1998, followed by another P2 billion a few years later.

Just like the previous issues, the payment of NDC's AA bonds is guaranteed by the national government. Interest payments on the bonds are scheduled semi-annually and are tax exempt.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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ◎ TUESDAY FITNESS ◎ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◎ THURSDAY FOOD ● FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Debunking myths on women's health

DESPITE the vast information available to us about medical breakthroughs and health developments, there are myths concerning women's issues that are taken as gospel truth.

It's time to debunk these myths.

Myth No. 1:

Acne can be outgrown.

Statistics are in. Studies show that nearly half of all women suffer from acne. The pimples that bothered you as an adolescent can recur. And those who had clear skin as teenagers may have acne in their 20s and 30s.

Over-washing the face and using astringents can worsen acne. Use instead a pH-balanced oil-free, fragrance-free cleanser. Apply a clay mask once or twice daily. Avoid foods that cause inflammation like refined processed carbohydrates (cakes, breads, crackers), sugars and saturated fats and transfats. Eat vegetables and fruits, lean proteins, whole grains. Try taking alpha-linolenic acid and chromium. Drink 10-12 glasses of water daily.

Myth No. 2:

A young woman doesn't have to worry about heart disease.

Metabolic syndrome (a condition indicated by too much weight around the midsection, insulin resistance and elevated blood pressure) is an accurate predictor of heart disease.

It appears to be more prevalent among women aged 29-30 and it is also expanding at an alarming rate. Keep your body weight healthy and normal. Eliminate saturated, transfats and hydrogenated fats (note: read carefully labels of food items and take note of their ingredients). Just adding more fish to your diet ought to improve your health outlook.

Myth No. 3:

The best way to treat PMS (pre-menstrual syndrome) and other symptoms associated with a woman's monthly period is through prescription drugs.

Most women experience cramps, fluid retention, mood swings, constipation, fatigue, etc., that are part of the monthly menstrual cycle. Now there is good news. You can manage the discomforts the natural way. Eliminate red meat and junk food the week prior to the onset of your period. Avoid sugar, alcohol and caffeine. Eat cold water fish, lean proteins, legumes, fresh fruits and vegetables.

Myth No. 4:

Vaginal infections can be detected by Pap smears.

A Pap (named after Greek physician G.N. Papanicolaou) smear can only screen for cervical cancer and not sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) or infections like yeasts, bacterial vaginosis and trichomonas.

Foul odor in the vagina is not normal and should be checked immediately. If you are prone to yeast infections, avoid sugary treats and beverages. Consume yogurt daily—the live cultures help restore the chemical balance in the vagina. Taking two acidophilous capsules on an empty stomach daily is also helpful.

Myth No. 5:

If you take calcium, you won't have a problem with osteoporosis (brittle bones) when you are older.

The prevention of osteoporosis shouldn't start at menopause. In fact, it should begin in childhood. But calcium isn't the only thing needed to prevent osteoporosis. Vitamins K, D and C will also help.

If you eat lettuce or broccoli daily, then you are less likely to develop hip fractures. Follow the "healthy bones triad"—adequate mineral support, balanced nutrition through a healthy diet and regular weight-bearing exercises. Note: Calcium is absorbed better when combined with a protein meal.

Myth No. 6:

Women who are postmenopausal should ensure cardiac health through hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

The menopausal phase increases the risk of heart attack in women. But studies conducted by the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) in the United States found that HRT may not be helpful in reducing the risk.

In fact, WHI found that postmenopausal women who got the combination estrogen/progestin therapy were at risk of heart attack, stroke and blood clots. The only benefit of HRT was an increase in bone density and decrease in hip fracture.

The current medical recommendation seems to be to give the HRT in the smallest dose and the shortest time possible. There are natural alternatives to help women cope with menopause like black cohosh, dong quai, Siberian ginseng, false unicorn root that help balance a woman's hormones during this period.

Incidence of hot flashes can be reduced by avoiding triggers like spicy food, hot drinks, refined (not natural) sugars, caffeine, alcohol. More soy in the diet also helps. It protects against bone loss, cardiovascular disease, reduced risks of breast and colon cancers.

New info contradicts many long-held beliefs

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

The feminine soak:

Squeeze fresh orange and lemon in a tub filled with warm water. Throw in the peels. Add three cups of milk. Soak in the mixture for five minutes. Take in the energizing aroma of citrus for an energizing bath.

Visualization:

Simultaneously imagine that every breath you take is energized by the colors orange and yellow until it glows from the inside out!

Affirmation:

Believe it and repeat it three times: "I am the essence of energy."

Love and light!

Reference: "Let's Live Magazine" May 2005

"Women's Health Myths" from the book "Look Hot, Live Long" by Chris Lydon, M.D.

(Always consult your physician if you have medical concerns.)

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SUPER hosts: Makati's dynamic first couple, Mayor Jejomar C. Binay and his wife, Dr. Elenita Binay

HEAVYWEIGHTS of the business world: Allen Andersen, president of Scovell Consulting Inc.; Michael Wootton, British Chamber president; and Pat Abellera, British Chamber executive director

DR. Jaime Galvez Tan of Makati Phil-Health, with businessman Antonio Rufino, consul of Mongolia

REAL estate magnate Edward Ferreira, also consul general of the Republic of Kazakhstan

BRIAN Lane, vice president of Asian Tigers Lane Moving

ROGER Mina, president of Makati Tourism, and Herminia Jacinto, consultant of Makati Fire Safety

BONG Borja, president of People Support

FIDEL Alfonso of Makati Fire Safety and Lisa Caudal of People Support

Vibrant and dynamic at 335

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THE STAR city of the metropolis, Makati, with its dazzling skyline, celebrated its 335th year with loads of eye-catching colorful activities starting with the fun Pasinaya, *palanggas*, in Bel-Air, followed by a late-ish Flores de Mayo, and the Grand Parade at the end of the rollicking festivities.

And that was just the aperitif dahlings. The celebration also featured street party and wall art on Kalayaan Avenue, passport issuance, blood-letting, concerts of jazz and blues, show by Rico J. and Friends, the fun *famille* day, selection of Miss Makati, acoustic music, marathon, Tibok Sining sa Reposo, fun run and the wild Gay Revue 2005, **Raul Sunico** and the University of Santo Tomas Wind Orchestra concert, and Mega Job Fair, among others.

Well, you know why Makati is miles ahead of the rest. With a dynamic mayor at the helm, you've got a winner, *palanggas*.

A week ago, *moi* was invited to cocktails to commemorate Araw ng Makati at the mayor's office at the posh City Hall, no less. It was attended by hotshots from government, namedroppables, the diplomatic set, and pals of Makati's first couple. Who were there? **Ricardo Romulo**, **Kyi Maung** of Myanmar, Cuban Ambassador **Jorge Rey**, **Claudio Lyra** of Brazil, **Erendira Arateli Paz Campos** of Mexico, **Saber Mansour** of Egypt, Consul **Ed Ferreira**, Consul **Fausto Preysler**, **Herbert** and **Ramon Sy**, **Bong Borja**, **Herminio Jacinto**, and workaholic, dedicated president of the Makati Tourism Foundation, **Roger Mina**, plus others like them too high-profile to mention.

Unfortunately, the fab fireworks display was canceled due to heavy rains. Capping the month-long celebration was the race of races, the Mayor Binay Cup, at the so-much-nicer-now Sta. Ana Race Track, *palanggas*.

AYALA Land Inc. president and CEO Jim Ayala, Dennis Villareal, Ayala Land executive Angie Lacson, Marivic Añonuevo and Jimmy Ysmael

WELL-KNOWN chef Tom Hines, Amanpulo's tall, blonde beauty Karen McNally, and Etienne La'Brooy of El Nido

Wine lovers

When I was a kid, wine was a jug of Gallo or Thianci. Wine wasn't something you'd drink every day, but only for special occasions, if at all. Well, *palanggas*, not anymore.

These days, when it comes to exquisite wine, you can be sure our town's top connoisseurs will be *tres visible*. That's exactly what happened during the Mouton Cadet pageant/grand degustation dinner superbly hosted by that grand fashionable lady, **Tita Trillo** of Titania Wine Cellar Inc., no less, at her new chi-chi and cozy La Vigne Bistro at Southway Condominium, Yakal Street, San Antonio Village, Makati.

No less than the chair and CEO of Baron Philippe de Rothschild, the dashing Frenchman, Monsieur **Xavier de Eizaguirre**, and the GM for Asia-Pacific, Monsieur **Thierry de Tourniel**, jetted in for the occasion.

As expected, wine lovers, jet setters, hoteliers and restaurateurs, plus the beautiful set, packed La Vigne Bistro: **Myrna Segismundo**, V's and Nuvo's **Louie Ysmael**, **Peter Jentes**, **Boni Pimentel**, **Monchet Olivez**, **Alfredo Roca**, **Ced** and **Cez Ramirez**, **Etienne La'Brooy**, **David Thomas**, **Eduard Gonda**, **Bill Stone**, **Bernard Regnauld-Fabre** of the French Embassy, **Max Soliven** and his precious wife **Precious S.**; **Simon** and **Nina Halley**, plus other connoisseurs like them, *palanggas*.

Now on its fourth year, the Miss Mouton Cadet Pageant is an annual beauty and talent search jointly sponsored by Baron Philippe de Rothschild (France) and Titania Wine Cellar Inc., formerly Anthony's Wine Cellar Inc. (in case you have forgotten, dahlings). It aims to promote French wines and culture in the Philippines. Prize for the winner was an all-expense-paid trip to France that included attendance in the Cannes Film Festival for the thrill and excitement of walking on the red carpet alongside internationally famous actors.

FERNANDO Zobel de Ayala with prospective buyers Gloria Tagorda, Ana Abaca, Jake Tagorda and Dante Abaca

LINDA Francisco of Salon Systems Management Inc., Nettie de Villa and Ayala Land project specialist Chette Academia

VERONICA Tacut and Ayala Land project specialist Cathy Coñiega

FASHIONABLY chic Tita Trillo, president and CEO of Titania Wine Cellar; and Monsieur Xavier de Eizaguirre, chair of the managing board of Baron Philippe de Rothschild

THE DIVINELY gorgeous Zsa Zsa Padilla wowed the chi-chi invitees.

Nine beautiful candidates were dolled up in gorgeous gowns by **Jeannie Goulbourn** and **Michi Calica**, while nine discriminating judges chose the winners. The title Miss Mouton Cadet 2005 went to **Gwennaelle Ramos Ruais**, who was sponsored by the LJC Group of Restaurants. However, she couldn't go to Cannes so first runner-up Maris Dimayuga, sponsored by Friday's Boracay, went instead.

Superbly hosting the major happening were husband and wife **Jason** and **Claudine Trillo Webb**.

Then came the to-die-for sit-down dinner for 140 well-heeled invitees. Talented chef **Jose Sotto** meticulously prepared the excellent five-course menu with so much flair and exquisite taste. Mouton Cadet Blanc and Rouge wines were poured endlessly, capped with Sauterne 2000 to match the ahh so calorific, sinful desserts, *palanggas*.

Time does fly when you're having a blast. It was past 2 a.m. when everyone started to leave, some slurring and wobbling—all high with the spirit of Mouton Cadet! *N'est ce pas?*

Newest landmark

Two fab nights of cool music and socializing launched Ayala Land Inc.'s (ALI) newest baby, the San Lorenzo Tower. Hotshot ALI executives and can-afford high-profile invitees partied at the cool, calm, Zen-like Bamboo Garden of Greenbelt Park, celebrating the hippest and hottest condo today, *palanggas*.

Themed "A Million and One Stories," the hectic two-day launch showed us "the dynamic, luxurious and infinitely exciting 'stories' future residents of the new San Lorenzo Tower will be able to live out and experience."

San Lorenzo Tower of the prestigious The Residence at Greenbelt had no less than the hot namedroppables of ALI—chair, slim, fit **Fernando Zobel**; and president and CEO **Jim Ayala**—welcoming us and sharing the supervision behind the prestigious project. ALI senior vice president, brilliant beauty **Angie Lacson**, gave us a tour of the three model units of the San Lorenzo Tower.

The two-night extravaganza had the Greenbelt stamp of style and ultra-luxury—fab songs from the divine diva, Zsa Zsa Padilla; hosting by "F" mainstay **Daphne Oseña**, great cocktail finger food from the always consistent Via Mare, and a spectacular fireworks display.

Stylish living has arrived, *palanggas*, with this 57-story skyscraper that will rise head and shoulders above many of the current features of the Makati skyline.

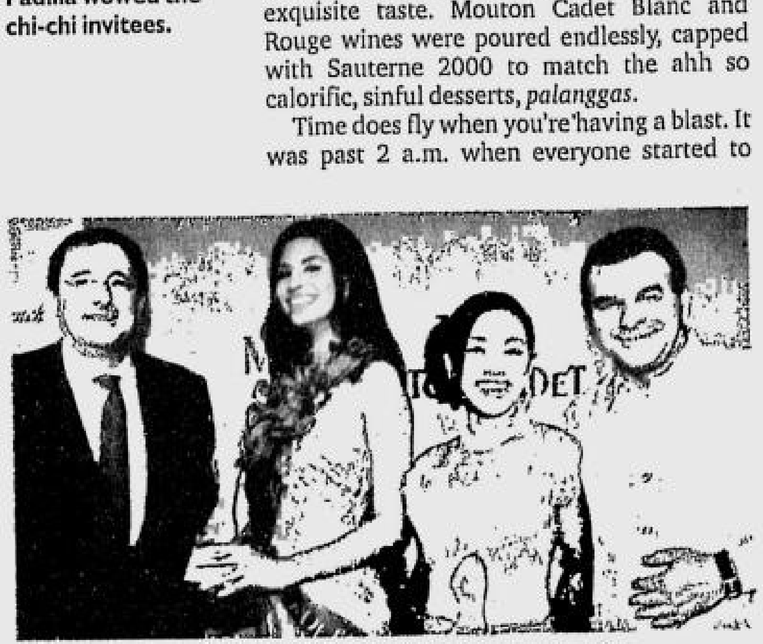
Clients who made reservations during the elegant and luxurious two-night launch, brought home a taste of Greenbelt living—an awesome lifestyle pack of cool items from the *tres* exclusive shops at Greenbelt Mall and Lifestyle Center. Not bad, huh? A fitting celebration to welcome a structure that will soon dominate Makati's skyline.

For more info, *palanggas*, call the Ayala hotline at 7527000.

CONNOISSEURS: Roselyn Sugay de Helbling and Petron Phils. president Khalid Al-Faddagh

HIP fashion designer Michi Calica-Sotto with Lifestyle Asia and Mega Magazine's vivacious Lorraine Belmonte

FRENCHMAN Philip Normand and knit queen Lulu Tan Gan



XAVIER de Eizaguirre, chair of Baron Philippe, with tall, gorgeous and talented Gwennaelle Ruais, Miss Mouton Cadet 2005; runner-up Maris Dimayuga; and Thierry de Tourniel, GM for Asia and Pacific

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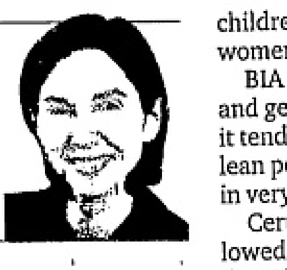
Measuring body fat



WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

WHEN it comes to weight loss, the ordinary weighing scale does not tell the whole truth. Your weight does not indicate how much is fat and how much is muscle or lean body tissue.

To find out how much fat you have, you need to use a body fat measurement technique. The two most practical methods for the average person are skinfold measurements and bioelectrical impedance. Here are their pros and cons, and tips to make each method more accurate.

Margin for error

Though many body fat measurement methods claim to be the most accurate, the most accurate is actually an autopsy. Obviously, not even the most fat-obsessed person will undergo this test.

From dissections, scientists have been able to make assumptions about how much fat is stored under the skin (about 50 percent) or stored around internal organs and how much of the body is water (about 50-70 percent). From these assumptions, scientists have derived what is called "prediction equations."

All measurement methods rely on these equations. Unfortunately, the equations can be a source of error because most of them were developed using white or Caucasian populations.

Vivian Heyward, exercise scientist at the University of New Mexico, has done a comprehensive analysis of which method is best for which ethnic group, based on 75 studies. According to her, no one method can claim to be the "gold standard" for all races.

All the methods have a 3-4 percent error factor because of the "prediction equations." This means that, if your body fat was measured at 20 percent, you could be as low as 17 percent or as high as 23 percent. The error rate gets even worse if the person taking your measurement does not do it properly.

Bioelectrical impedance

This method is based on the assumption that water is a good conductor of electricity. A muscle cell is 75 percent water and a fat cell is only 5-13 percent water.

In traditional BIA or bioelectrical impedance, a harmless electrical current is passed through electrodes placed on a person's hand and foot as s/he lies down. A machine measures how fast or slow the electrical current travels. The slower the current, the more fat a person has because fat "impedes" the flow of electricity.

BIA is convenient because the test only takes 10 minutes. The person being tested doesn't have to undress and there is minimal physical contact with the tester. The test can be used with children over 8 years old and pregnant women.

BIA is also appropriate for all races and genders (except for blacks), though it tends to overestimate body fat in very lean people and underestimate body fat in very obese people.

Certain guidelines have to be followed to ensure that the error rate doesn't go beyond 4 percent. No eating or drinking within four hours of the test. No exercise within 12 hours of the test. The person should empty his/her bladder within 30 minutes of the test and no alcohol consumption within 48 hours of the test. Diuretics should not be taken within seven days of the test.

Home fat monitor scales use a "leg to leg" connection. You stand on the scale on your bare feet and built-in electrodes take your body fat measurement. To get accurate results, follow the guidelines in the preceding paragraphs. Otherwise, you will get results with a much wider range of error.

Skinfold measurements

This is also known as the "pinch an inch" test. It involves measuring the fat under the skin with a special caliper.

The success of this method depends primarily on the skill of the person giving the test and the kind of caliper used. Plastic calipers should only be used by highly skilled technicians.

It is relatively easy to train people to do the test, but they must practice on at least 100 people to master the technique because many things can go wrong. The tester may not pinch the same exact spot each time, may not pinch all the fat away from the muscle, or may pinch part of the muscle together with the fat.

Since "pinching" techniques can vary widely, use the same tester with the same type of caliper each time you take a re-test. Get tested before you exercise since blood travels to the surface of the skin when you exercise. Your skinfold measurement will be artificially bigger than it should be. Do not use oils or lotions because the tester's fingers will be sliding all over the place.

For this test, however, you have to undress and the tester has to touch your body in several places. The test is not appropriate for very obese individuals since the jaws of the caliper cannot open wide enough. The skinfold method is appropriate for all races except for male Native American Indians.

The biggest disadvantage is that equations are based on the assumption that everyone has 50 percent of their total storage fat under their skin. This is not true for everyone, especially as people get older.

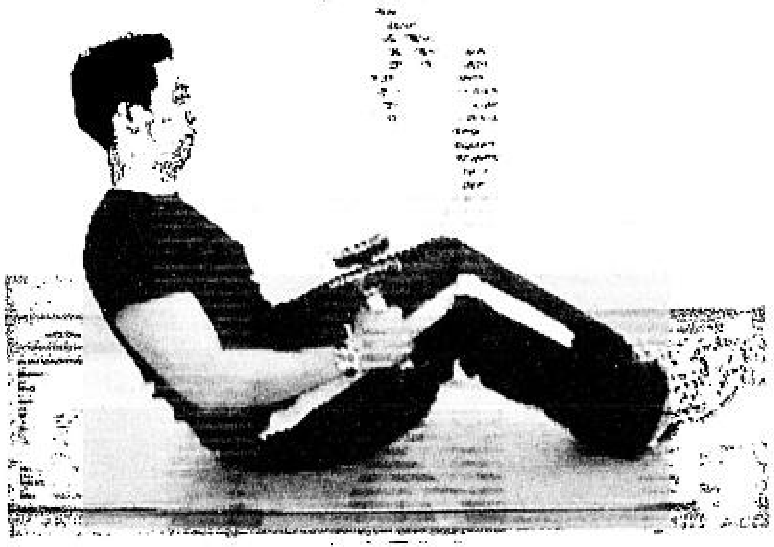
Suggestions

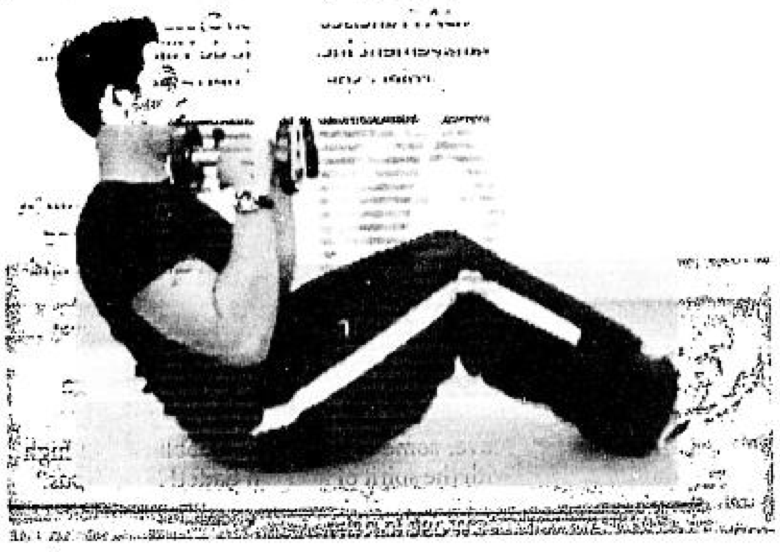
Do not get hung up on the actual fat percentage calculated. Use the tests as a way to judge your progress in losing body fat. Use the same kind of test each time. Do not try to compare the results of one kind of test with another. It would be like "comparing apples to pears."

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

V-Sit with dumbbell hammer curl





THIS exercise strengthens the biceps, forearms, abdominal and lower back muscles, as well as the quadriceps, muscles in the front of the thighs. It also develops balance.

Equipment:

Exercise mat and dumbbells

Exercise technique:

1. Sit with knees bent, legs together, feet flat on the mat, and a dumbbell in each hand.
2. Tighten your abdominal muscles and lean backwards. Arms are slightly bent and the palms are facing each other.
3. Exhale as you curl the dumbbells to your shoulders; inhale as you lower them.
4. Do the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips:

1. Keep your abdominal muscles tight with your back straight as you lean backwards. Avoid slouching. Your abdominals and lower back are working as stabilizers to maintain the position of your trunk.
2. This is an advanced exercise. Beginners should avoid it.
3. If you feel pain in the lower back or tailbone (coccyx), avoid this exercise.

Repetitions:

Do 10-15 repetitions.

Partners for kids' nutrition

NEW Zealand Milk (NZM) Phils., makers of Anchor 1+ growing up milk and a global leader in milk products, has teamed up with the Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS) in the "Young Child's Nutrition Education Campaign." The two-year campaign aims to enhance parents' awareness of the importance of proper nutrition among children, especially those aged 1-4.

Assisted by NZM, the PPS has lined up various information, education and communication activities.

The PPS is one of the country's premier medical organizations, with a membership of 3,500 nationwide. Its councils are involved in training and continuing pediatric education, as well as community service and child advocacy.

For NZM, the partnership allows it to assist the PPS in realizing its goals of providing information and service to Filipino children. As a global leader in dairy products and maker of Anchor milk, NZM is committed to giving Filipinos the best products for their nutritional needs.

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Early scanning for Alzheimer's Disease

THE POSITRON Emission Tomography (PET), primarily known to help in cancer diagnoses, can also help in the early detection of Alzheimer's Disease and the little-known "Lubag" (a rare disease affecting males with maternal roots in the Panay island).

Both are neurological or brain disorders with no known cure at present.

Dr. Jonas Y. Santiago, head of the PET Center of St. Luke's Medical Center, said PET scans were not yet widely used in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease since at the moment there was no effective cure for it. Available medicines, he explained, merely delayed its onset or eased the symptoms.

With a PET scan, parts of the brain affected by the disease are either seen as areas where a radioactive tracer accumulates or where the radioactive tracer does not go to.

The same is true for *Lubag* that affects men in their productive years— 20s, 30s and 40s. Lubag (the local term for X-linked Dystonia-Parkinsonism) is a debilitating illness. It is characterized by involuntary movements that, when severe, could impair regular activities.

Introduced by St. Luke's Medical Center in the Philippines three years ago, PET scanning has helped in the precise diagnoses of various forms of cancer and guides the right combination of management. The PET center is the only one in the Philippines today and among the few in the world with a Cyclotron, a machine that prepares the radioactive tracers for the scan.

PET, classified under nuclear medicine, is a non-invasive imaging technique using small amounts of radiopharmaceuticals for tracing bodily processes and measuring cellular and tissue changes. It provides direct measure of biochemistry and functional activity enabling early diagnosis of disease.

St. Luke's PET center is manned by physicists and chemists who trained with the renowned Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

A PET scan is also useful in following up cancer management.

Contact the PET Center of St. Luke's Medical Center at 7268369 or 7230101 loc. 4157 / 4158.

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MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

Is there a special type of diet that helps control high blood pressure?

The answer is yes, but depending on the stage of hypertension, dieting may not be enough to control blood pressure problems. Research called the DASH study (Dietary Approach to Stop Hypertension) established that a diet that emphasizes on the consumption of fruits, vegetables, low fat dairy foods and wholegrain products and trims down on the amount of red meat, fats and sweets eaten lowers blood pressure compared to a diet that is high in cholesterol and salt. Another study established that the DASH diet coupled with a low sodium diet achieved the greatest lowering effect on blood pressure. Other facts established are: (1) The DASH diet lowered blood pressure at high intermediate and no sodium levels. (2) A reduction in sodium consumption lowered blood pressure in those with and without hypertension, hence it is also worthwhile for people who do not have high blood pressure to reduce salt intake.

*This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider based at MEDICard's Head Office Clinic in Makati City. **Dr. Melinda P. Marcial.** Dr. Marcial is an internist. She is a graduate of Medicine from the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila and took her residency training for her specialization at the Ospital ng Makati. Currently, she is the company Physician for the Philippine National Oil Company, Peoples Credit Financial Corp., Headstrong and Planters Bank. MEDICard members may visit her for consultations, from Tuesdays to Fridays, 7am to 12 noon and on Saturdays, from 7 am to 3 pm. The MEDICard Head Office clinic is located at the 9/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City*

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

Breakthrough tennis racquet

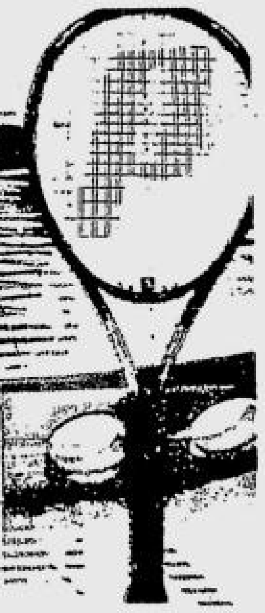
PRINCE introduces a breakthrough racquet for tennis players with a sleek, aerodynamic frame that allows for a larger "sweet spot" for more powerful shots. The Prince O3 was designed through a recent advance in racquet engineering technology. The new O3 re-engineered racquets provide a larger sweet spot—more than 50 percent. The "sweet spot" is the racquet part from where one hits the best shots.

This means the conventional spot has now become virtually a "sweet zone."

Prince achieved the breakthrough by transforming traditional string holes into revolutionary giant O-Ports in a maneuverable and aerodynamic frame. It employs the "Arch" frame for this technology, the strongest structure known to man, to maximize strength and stability.

The new O3 engineered racquets fuse two arches together, which create giant string holes called O-Ports. These O-Ports work to stabilize the frame, providing total string freedom for a livelier response across the entire string bed. These eliminate the "dead zone" which traditional string holes create, giving players more consistency, greater stability and more confidence. O-Ports also act as wind tunnels to reduce aerodynamic drag, creating a fast and maneuverable frame which produces a faster swing speed for more play. The Prince O3 is perfect for players who want maximum power from shorter, slower strokes. With a weight of only 8.8 oz of 250 g and length of 27.75 inches, the O3 Silver can be easily controlled, its power level at 1600 effectively eliminating the competition. It is available in silver and red, with a bonus of "P" Plug-in Damper/Elastoner—provides ultimate string vibration damping for maximum solid feel.

Demo racquets are also available for the "Try Before You Buy" program. Call 6719765 or 6716660.



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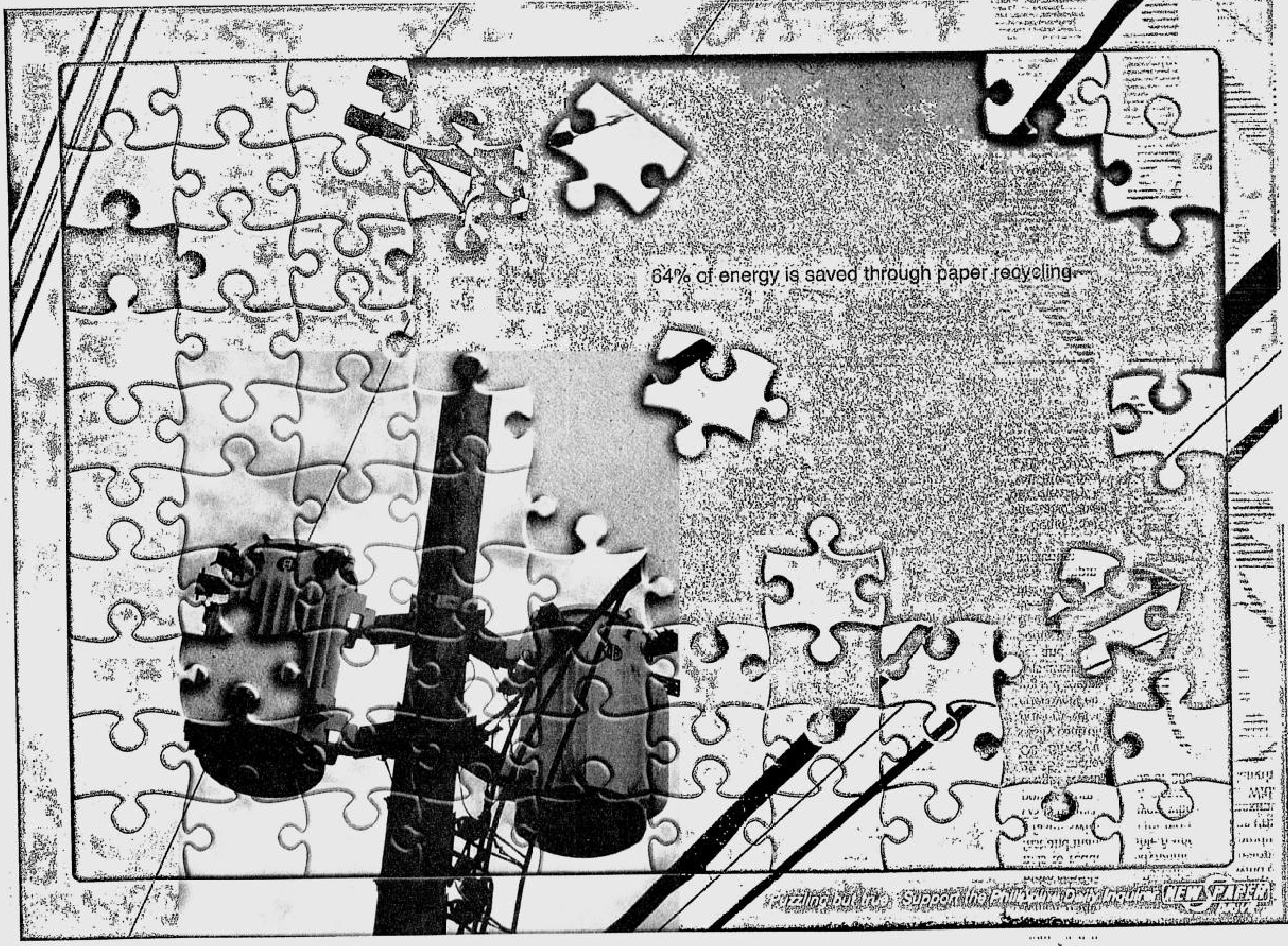
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Puzzling but true. Support the Philippine Daily Inquirer NewsPaper Drive

Energy consumption in full power

Energy consumption is at an all time high in this day and age of automation. Power utilization has become an indispensable part of a modern lifestyle where work is electricity-dependent, and leisure is even battery-powered.

However, we can all do our share in energy preservation through paper recycling. Because paper is being reused instead, energy use in raw material extraction and processing is therefore eliminated. Energy consumption of paper mills which count among the largest is decreased. Conserved energy sums up to something that can be valuably used by future generations.

You can be one in saving our energy resources through the NewPaper Drive. Now on its fifth year, this Inquirer recycling campaign aims to make a difference in the environment. **Linis Ganda, Inquirer's partner in making a difference in the environment, will pick-up old newspapers and tabloids for FREE within Metro Manila.** For inquiries, call Winnie or Michelle at 410-0383 or 448-7835. For pick-ups, call CARPEL Office at 430-0656 or 430-8411 and look for Weng, Lorrie or Myra. Pick-ups are from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekdays, from June 25 to October 25, 2005.

Interested individuals may also drop off their newspapers and tabloids at the different Inquirer offices. In Manila: FEP Printing Press loading dock; 3817 Mascardo St. (behind the Inquirer building) Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City. Tel. No. 8974386 local 2160. Contact Person: Adrian Cruz. In Laguna: Printtown Bldg. Mamplasan, Biñan, Laguna. Tel. No. 8974386 local 2158. Contact Person: Adrian Cruz. In Cebu: FEP Printing Press, Warehouse #1, Menzo Compound National Highway, Pajo, Lapu Lapu City. Tel. No. (032) 3407970 to 71. Contact Person: Lenny Brua. In Davao: FEP Printing Press loading dock, Brgy. Ma-A, Ma-A Road, Davao City. Tel. No. (082) 844-1711 to 12. Contact Person: Rowena Balandra.

FEP will receive newspapers from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Makati, Wednesdays and Fridays in Laguna and weekdays in Cebu and Davao. Sellers will be paid P5.00 per kilo. Fit into this picture perfectly by selling us your old newspapers and tabloids of any kind now.

LINIS-GANDA

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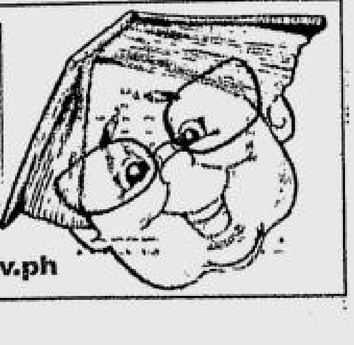

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